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Egyptian extremists renew threat

CAIRO (AP) - Extremists on Monday renewed their threat against foreigners and claimed responsibility for the shooting death of a high-ranking police officer in southern Egypt. The Al Gamaa Al Islamiya said it killed Brigadier Omar Mustafa in Assiut on Sunday to avenge a police raid Feb. 1 on the outskirts of Cairo in which seven suspected radicals were killed. The group again urged tourists and foreign investors to leave, saying this was their "last ultimatum." Unlike the earlier threat, the new warning made clear it was not only talking about visitors from the West but "Arabs or any other nationality." The statements came in faxes to a Western news agency in Cairo. There was no way to authenticate them. No attack on foreigners has been reported since the threat Feb. 2 urged tourists and foreign investors to leave or risk getting caught in rising violence. While the warnings to foreigners were similar to those issued by Algerian radicals, the violence in Egypt has been far less intense. At least 27 foreigners have been killed in direct attacks in Algeria.

Volume 18 Number 5533

AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1994, SHA'BAN 27, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

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### s old, suspens i Jordan, Panama set an 100 officers up formal ties

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### Church of Six Unit off to Croatia

eli to view thet statue. carvedin AMMAN (Petra) - The last e in the Gare batch of the third battalion of name in Jense the Jordanian peace keeping o the Bamburd, forces Monday left Amman for s case. The ne Croatia, The batch was seen metre) medice off by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul rially dear is who bring te, Hafez Mirai and senior army the statue for a: officers.

### good health in Egypt reportedly "an insult to the deports Libyan

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has deported a Libyan citizen in parents of connection with the disappearance of a foe of the Libyan regime almost two months ago, a Libyan dissident said Mon-NCHO, NM(Rday. Mansour Kikhia, 62, a old New Mean former Libyan foreign minisof his friends. vanished from his hotel ld after confess, Dec. 10 during a visit to Cairo. bing deaths d Libyan opposition figures and year-old grande. human rights advocates beute over beer. lieves he was kidnapped by arday. Ed and Libyan agents. Mohammad ere killed after! Gibril, spokesman for the old her grands National Front for the Salvation of Libya, said Yusef Saleh Negm was deported last week Lieutenant Re because of the Kikhia case. He f the Rio Es also quoted contacts in Tripoli epartment sid: as saying Mr. Kikhia was being held in the eastern Libyan res a suburb of s Michael Brown gion of Sirte.

### with his two be Germany to ban Algerian activist

BONN (AFP) — The head of

iater, police said the exiled leadership of Alger-ie's Islamic Salvation Front had been does Islamic Salvation Front said, and their FIS), Rabah Kebir, is to bee : murders after th ed from all political activaudiotape by "f" by in Germany, the German er Snoop Dogg ded songs tidel foreign ministry announced Monday. The ban was being The Case and sought by the interior ministry of the regional state of North hine-Westphalia, where Mr. Kebir, who has requested polineglect co tical asylum is resident, the O (AP) - 1 ministry statement said. problems. New "Kebir has made public statements in Germany upon polilived in the F tical questions in Algeria in a fested fourth manner which is contrary to the interests of the German in their under Federal Republic and endanin their unustrial kepublic and endan-string from a serial kepublic and endan-gers its interests," the foreign ministry statement said (see related on story page 2). ned city cops

### children late Ghali calls Cyprus

ig a drug raid hock was in s kers had knocke kers had smeet NICOSIA (R) — U.N. Secretsince August ary-General Boutros Ghali has asked the leaders of the Greek and Turkieb Communications and Turkieb Communications and Turkieb Communications and Commun ing without and Turkish Cypriot communiter. One case in the in divided Cyprus to begin anded as a good talks in mid Determined ded as a found talks in mid-February on a discovery as package of confidence on a discovery package of confidence building 121 uproat measures. "It is important that or truth many neglected: the modalities be worked out many neglecton within two months at the most e place was and the so that the confidence-building t itself and the effect of this it itself and a effect of this effort can be are to prevent achieved. he said in re to prevent achieved," he said in a letter to amonplace to Cyprus President Glafcos Cler-his incident is gave no precise date for the t this country to talks in Nicosia.
Al Gore said the

# West inches towards air strikes on Serbs

Combined agency dispatches

BRUSSELS - European Union (EU) foreign ministers Monday called for the lifting of the Serb siege of Sarajevo by "all the means necessary, including the use of airpower."

A joint statement issued by the 12 ministers said it would be up to the North Atlantic Council in concert with the U.N. secretary general to bring this about.

The EU, which expressed its "revulsion" at the shelling of civilians in the Bosnian capital. also said it supported efforts to place the town under U.N. protection

The aim should be to bring about the immediate lifting of the siege of Sarajevo, using all the means necessary including the use of air power," said the statement.

"The measures taken would be the first step in the implementation of the action plan of the European Union.

"The Council of the European Union reiterates its support for the efforts of the cochairmen (Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg) to place the administration of Sarajevo under the authority of the United Nations."

In Brussels, a source close to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said NATO ambassadors will consider the situation in Sarajevo at their regular weekly meeting Wednesday, rather than call a special session.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton's national security advisers met Monday to con-

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and

Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres arrived here Mon-

day for talks aimed at clinching

a final deal to launch Palesti-

meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the

presidential palace in the

northern Cairo district of

He flew in from Tunis with

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a mem-

ber of the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) Executive

Committee, and Ahmad

Qourica, director of the PLO's

Egyptian capital later Monday,

but an Israeli foreign ministry

spokesman said a meeting with

Mr. Arafat had not yet been

Mr. Peres arrived in the

economic department.

Heliopolis.

Mr. Arafat first headed for a

sider what action to take in response to the weekend shelling that killed 68 people in

Sarajevo. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also made a series of telephone calls to five foreign ministers, including those of France, Britain and Canada, three countries with large peacekeeping contingents in the Balkans.

Mr. Christopher talked with Douglas Hurd of Britian, Alain Juppe of France and Andre Quelette of Canada. U.S. national security advisers meanwhile met while Mr.

Clinton was in Houston, Mr. Clinton has repeatedly warned that no actions would be ruled out, including air strikes, against Serb military positions if Bosnian Serbs con-

tinued to blockade Sarajevo

and to shell the city. Bosnian Serbs have agreed to negotiate a peace deal for Sarajevo separate from an overall settlement for Bosnia's 22-month-old civil war, peace envoy Lord Owen said against the backdrop of international outrage and calls for airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs besieging the capital.

In Moscow, Russian govern-

**Arafat and Peres seek to** 

clinch deal in Cairo talks

"We still do not have a

Prime Minister Yitzhak

programme, of meetings for Mr. Peres," he said.

Rabin, Mr. Peres and senior

army officials on Monday re-

viewed the details to be ham-

mered out in Cairo by the two

PLO officials in Cairo said

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat

would meet on Monday even-

ing, but a source in Tunis said

the meeting could take place

Mr. Peres said as he left

Israel with his staff that he was

bringing firm positions and

"tremendous" goodwill to the

"We haven't changed any of our positions. We are going

with a tremendous amount of

goodwill and we are not going

to haggle," Peres told repor-

on Tuesday.

delegations, officials said.

The besieging Serb forces are being widely blamed internationally for the attack but they deny they fired the mortar bomb. The United Nations said it was not certain who fired, but added it had no evidence to support Serb allegations the Muslims shelled themselves to provoke international military intervention.

tary leaders expressed strong reservations over proposals for air strikes on Serbian positions in Bosnia. One centrist leader, Nationalities Minister Sergei Shakhrai, said any escalation of the conflict could trigger a

Saturday's atrocity in Sarajevo prompted a number of moves to focus on ways to bring peace to the city as Bosnia's ethnic rivals remained deadlocked on the overall peace process.

After talks during the night with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the border town of Zvornik, peace envoy Owen, a Briton, told reporters: "It was an agreement to negotiate a U.N. administration and demilitarisation of Sarajevo separate from an overall peace settlement. They (the Bosnian Serbs), like us, would prefer a comprehensive peace settlement. That appears at the moment to be blocked.'

Muslim insistence that besieging Serbs pull back their heavy weapons from the mountains overlooking Sarajevo scuppered a U.N. attempt to broker a ceasefire

on Sunday. Lord Owen said on Monday the next round of Bosnia peace talks in Geneva set for Thursday would discuss "confidencebuilding measures - hotlines, the exchange of personnel at headquarters — dealing with Sarajevo," he added: "Let's deal with one thing at a time and get Sarajevo settled."

Environmental Minister

Yossi Sarid, accompanying Mr. Peres, said: "There will be

flexibility on both sides. Both

have to come with new ideas,

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat

held talks in Davos, Switzer-

land, last week on the delay of

an Israeli troop withdrawal

from the Gaza Strip and West

The two planned to meet

again in Cairo on Sunday or

Monday but the PLO said on

Sunday the Cairo meeting was

off unless Mr. Peres was autho-

rised to reach a final accord on

security issues stalling the pull-

On Monday, the PLO ambassador in Cairo said Mr.

Arafat was coming to Cairo on

Monday evening to hold talks

Bank town of Jericho.

otherwise there is no use."

### Electronic occupation

An Israeli sapper follows an explosive-clearing robot, searching for a bomb near an Israeli army watchpost in Jabaiya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Israeli-Palestinian confrontations left two Palestinians dead and six injured since Saturday. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were in Cairo on Monday in a bid to work out a final deal to launch Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho (see story below)



## 'Abu Nidal behind Maaytah murder'

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah was gunned down by followers of the Abu Nidal group, the most radical Palestinian faction, investigations by the Lebanese government have concluded, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Agency reports from Beirut, quoting security sources, said that the Lebanese police had arrested a Palestinian who confessed that he killed Mr. Maaytah 10 days ago. The report from Beirut said that the suspect belonged to a "Palestinian guerrilla faction," but did not name the group.

Diplomatic sources in Amman confirmed that there were two arrests made in connection with the case in Lebanon and that the suspects were members of the Abu Nidal group. Jordanian officials con-

tacted by the Jordan Times said the Kingdom had not received an official notification from the Lebanese government.

One source close to the

case, however, said that Jordan had "received indications from the Lebanese government that implicated the Abu Nidal group." Reuters news agency, in a report from Beirut, quoted a

judicial source as saying that two Palestinians were arrested on Saturday in connection with the case. The judicial source did not confirm that a suspect had confessed, but said that "in-

vestigations had reached an advanced stage since the arrests," Renters said. Asked to confirm the report, another senior Jordanian official, said he believed the report was "accurate."

He refused to elaborate. A gunman shot dead Mr.

## (Continued on page 5)

## Aden and Sanaa exchange charges over plane seizure

SANAA (R) - North and South Yemen were locked on Monday in a dispute over-who controls the unified state's airspace after an Aden-bound cargo plane was seized in the north in an incident described by the south as air piracy.

Diplomats said the incident underlined persistent tensions between formerly Marxist South Yemen and the conservative North Yemen that have threatened a 1990 merger between them, despite an agreement by the two to settle their differences by Thursday.

A British-owned Boeing 707 headed from London to Aden was seized on Sunday at an airport in the former North Yemen, Sanaa said it was carrying a large quantity of batteries for military equipment and communications sets and had entered the country illegally.

But Andy King, director of the British company Ana Aviation, said Sunday his company's plane was carrying torch batteries and other commercial supplies including pharmaceuticals and was the victim of "an act of air piracy."

An Aden airport official said on Sunday night the plane was "intercepted in Hodeida airspace and forced to land at

Hodeida airport although it was in an authorised normal

He described the interception as "an act of piracy," and said Aden airport has been responsible for aviation and flight movement in the Yemen flight zone," since the 1990 merger of the north and south.

The Civil Aviation Authority in Sanaa challenged his statement, saying it was the only centre responsible for issuing air cargo permission.

Mr. King and the Aden air-port official said the plane was chartered by the southern airline Alyemda. Aviation authorities in Sanaa and Hodeida airports were informed in advance the plane was authorised to land at Aden airport and that it was carrying batteries and communications sets, the officials said.

"Despite the prior notification, the command of the airforce and air defence in Sanaa forced the plane to land at Hodeida airport, stormed it, detained its crew and confiscated its shipment," the Aden airport official said.

Responsible authorities in the Civil Aviation Authority

(Continued on page 5)

## Dr. Nidal Hamad, F.A.C.C.

American Board of Internal Medicine American Board of Cardiology Former cardiologist at Texas Heart Institute in Houston

Announces the opening of his cardiológy clínic in Amman

5th Circle, near Arab Centre for Heart and Surgery Phone 862202

## Cabinet to endorse sales tax draft law

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Council of Ministers is today expected to endorse a controversial draft law introducing sales tax and send it to Parliament after its final version was approved by the Economic Consultative Council (ECC), official sources said Monday.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the committee, which had been studying the viewpoints of the private sector on the tax, endorsed the draft law during a meeting Monday. Other officials said the

government wanted to send the draft to Parliament as soon as possible so that the tax could go into effect as of March 1, the extended deadline for the introduction of the levy as stipulated in Jordan's economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund

The draft is expected to be sent to the legislature as an emergency law that would take precedence in the law-makers' debate because of the pressing need to introduce the tax.

Fierce opposition is expected from many deputies in Parliament who reject the IMF programme as a whole as well as those who have been lobbied by the business community.

However, there cannot be any escape from the tax since any further delay in introducing it could seriously hamper the Kingdom's efforts to res-

chedule its foreign debts.

An IMF certification that Jordan is implementing an economic restructuring programme and is abiding by the programme's provisions is essential before creditors agree to open rescheduling

Participating in the discussions that led the finalisation of the draft law were representatives of the various interest groups such as the chambers of industries and commerce as well as the banking sector.

Mr. Gammoh said the sales tax law was part of a comprehensive plan to revamp the taxation structure in Jordan and that the government would be introducing the plan later this year.

He described the draft as progressive, pointing out that existing legislation allowed up to 60 per cent levy while the new piece of legislation had brought it down to 20 per cent and streamlined the ambiguities in the previous

According to government sources, the Council of Ministers felt that the main problem that hampered the introduction of the law was adverse comments by economists and businessmen judging it before studying it

"No one actually studied it well and compared it with the

(Continued on page 5)

## **ANZ Grindlays Bank**

### Chief executive ANZ Bank reaffirms commitment to Jordan AMMAN - Don Mercer,

the chief executive of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group arrives in Amman today, Feb. 8, 1994, for a fourday visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the bank's operations in the Middle East. The group's commercial

banking presence in Jordan and the rest of the Middle East, operated through ANZ Grindlays Bank is well established and contributes strongly to the bank's financial performance. Mr. Mercer's visit demonstrates ANZ's commitment to the market. David Smith, regional

general manager, Middle East said: "ANZ Grindlays has an excellent knowledge of the local business market and has been established in Jordan for nearly 70 years through its 14 branch network. Mr. Mercer's meetings will give him the opportunity to learn more about the economic development of the country and our Middle East operations. He will also meet with senior government officials and members of the bank's staff."

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group is one of



Australia's leading banks and features among the world's top 100 banks. It has a strong international representation with over 2,100 points of representation in over 40 countries. Total assets exceed Australian dollars (AUD) 99 billion and operating profits for the year to Sept. 30, 1993, exceeded AUD 450 million.

Mr. Mercer's programme will include a reception to be hosted by ANZ Grindlays General Manager for Jordan Adnan Sallakh and Mrs. Sal-

### (Continued on page 5) ters at Ben-Gurion airport. 4 Israeli soldiers killed, 3 wounded in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (Agencies) — Guerrillas killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded three in an ambush Monday in South Lebanon that drew retaliatory air and artillery strikes, security sources said.

A flareup in the south, the only active Arab-Israeli warfront, has been anticipated because the anniversaries of the assassinations of Shiite Muslim' guerrilla leaders fall in Febru-

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli fighter-bombers carried out three raids in 21/2 hours against guerrillas in the Iglim Al Tuffah region north of Israel's self-styled "security zone" shortly after the ambush.

There was no immediate word on casualties among the guerrillas. Nor was there comment from Israel on the

But the Israeli military command said in a statement that its jets attacked "Hizbollah targets" and scored "accurate

In the first strike at 1:30 p.m. (1130 GMT), four jets fired at least 10 rockets into the Loweizeh bluffs, a stronghold of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, the security sources and witnesses said.

They said the area was shrouded in dust and smoke from the first airstrike when a second wave of four jets attacked guerrilla positions in the Mlita bluffs. They returned later to bombard nearby Jabal

From the market town of Nabatiyeh, squeezed between Israeli-held territory and Iqlim Al Tuffah, reporters could see guerrillas firing anti-aircraft weapons against the Israeli jets. But no hits were observed.

A woman and her four children were wounded when guerrillas rained Katyusha rockets on Marjayoun, headquarters for the Israeli army, and elsewhere in Israel's self-

The flare-up began when Hizbollah ambushed an Israeli army patrol with anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons on a road inside the zone, killing four soldiers, according to security sources.

declared "security zone."

The dead were the Israeli army's first fatalities of the year in Lebanon and its biggest loss since eight soldiers were killed by Hizbollah last Au-

A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's army wing, told AFP in Beirut that its guerrillas destroyed an Israeli Merkava tank, killing or wounding an unspecified number of Israeli soldiers. Israeli helicopters later flew

over the area, apparently to pick up the casualties. The sources said three Israelis were killed instantly and four were wounded. One of the wounded died later.

The Israeli fatalities were (Continued on page 5)

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

Nearly 100 Iraqi refugees cross into Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Ninety-five Shiite Muslim refugees have entered Iran from Iraq in the past three days through the southwestern Hoveyzeh border crossing, an Iranian Red Crescent official said Monday. The official, quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, said an average of two or three.

families from Iraq's southern marshlands were entering Iran each day. The Red Crescent had set up 388 tents in Hoveyzeh

and provided relief aid for 413 Iraqi families who had already

ABU DHABI (AFP) - An appeals court in the United Arab

Emirates (UAE) saved a foreign woman from being stoned to death when it overturned her conviction for adultery, the local daily Gulf News reported on Monday. The 26-year-old

woman, whose nationality was not given, admitted at the

appeals court that she had had an "illicit" relationship with a

man other than her husband but denied having had sexnal-

intercourse with him. The woman was found to be pregnant

but under Islamic law no tests were required to identify the

father of the child, her denial of adultery being enough to

satisfy the court. The conviction and corresponding death

sentence were repealed because she had pleaded not guilty to

the adultery charge in line with Islamic Law, the paper said.

to receive 100 lashes of the whip 45 days after she delivers her

baby. It also ordered her to be deported at the end of the jail

The court instead sentenced her to nine months in prison and

pirale that

Woman saved from stoning in UAE

arrived there, the official added.

# Support for peace wanes as unrest mounts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians were jubilant at the prospect of better lives when the peace process was announced. Not quite five months later, they're again eager to attack Israeli targets and challenge Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

The bitter mood in the Israeli-occupied territories turned blacker Sunday when bickering between Israeli politicians and top generals threatened further delays in achieving Palestinian auton-

"Peace is not a theory, it's something that ordinary peo-ple need to touch," said Raji Sourani, a lawyer who heads the Gaza Centre for Rights and

There have been some changes since the accord between Israel and the PLO was signed in Washington on Sept.

 Palestinians could openly raise their flag, an act that used to draw Israeli gunfire. Over 700 Palestinians have been released from Israeli jails and a few streets sealed with barrels to prevent stone-throwing have

But under the original plan, the Israeli army was a start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank area around Jericho on Dec. 13 and finish withdrawing by April 13. Palestinians were to police the streets and civilian authorities were to assume responsibility for taxation, housing and utili-

There are no deadlines now. Instead, the process is in Israel hands. And Israeli officials have noticed a sharp shift in Palestinian attitudes.

"The Palestinian population woke up," an officer responsible for undercover operations told the weekly Al Hamishmar. He could not be identified due to army regulations.

"They thought they would experience a new reality. They know this is not true. So they are resuming the intifada," he

The numbers tell why. Since the agreement was signed, 62 Palestinians have died in clashes with Israelis, including six children under the age of 16. In the same period 20 Israeli soldiers and civilians have been killed.

Thousands of Palestinians remain behind bars, some for acts like raising the flag that are no longer illegal. Arrests continue. Över 50,000 Arabs lost jobs in Israel as a security measure to try to minimise attacks, and more work permits are being confiscated at random.

Israel subjects entire neighbourhoods to power cuts if some residents don't pay bills. Land confiscations have risen sharply, and house demolitions or disruptive searches con-

Israeli officials have said that the number of Israeli troops in the occupied lands is at one of its highest levels ever. The Israeli human rights group Betselem has noted a marked rise in the use of undercover opera-

Israeli officials said such actions are necessary to fight the small cells of peace opponents

still organising attacks.

"Alongside the preparations that an agreement will be signed... the pursuit of all perpetrators of terror will continue," Ehud Barak, the chiefof-staff, said after a PLO underground figure was killed by an undercover squad last

Gaza called a three-day strike to protest the killing. Support for the peace process is especially weak among Gaza's 800,000 residents, who are crowded into shantytowns.

Gazans expected Israel to



WAY OF LIFE: Palestinian boys throw stones at Israeli soldiers guarding a watch post in the

Strip (AFP photo)

act differently and the PLO to exert pressure to stop the worst effects of the occupation. Neither happened.

"They are sick and tired of occupation, and that is what I call explosive material," said Mr. Sourani.

A look in figures at what's behind Palestinian discontent since the PLO-Israel peace treaty was signed Sept. 13. 1993 (the first figure comes from Palestinian sources, the second from Israeli sources) N.A. means not available:

Total Palestinians killed: 62;

Palestinians killed in Gaza:

Palestinian children (under 16) killed: 6; n.a. Palestinians injured: 616:

Houses demolished in occupied lands: 63; 2 Land confiscated from Palestinians: 13,346 acres (or 5.400 hectares); n.a. Palestinians in jail: 14.000:

Israelis killed: 20: 20 Israeli soldiers injured: n.a.;

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Ira-

nian authorities have arrested

more than 20 people in last

week's alleged assassination

attempt against President

Hashemi Rafsanjani, a news-,

Iran's information minister,

Ali Fallahian, accused

Kourosh Nik Akhtar and his

alleged accomplices of being

part of "a clandestine terrorist

group," according to the news-

Mr. Fallahian did not iden-

paper, Hamshahri.

paper reported Monday.

20 held in attack on

Rafsanjani — report

Israeli civilians injured: n.a.;

Sources: Palestinian figures: The Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, the Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre. and Betselem, the Israeli human rights organisation.

Israeli figures: The Israeli military spokesman's office. the Israeli prison authority. Prisoner figures include 4.091 Palestinians held by army and 3,500 held by prison authority.

reports said the unrest was

sparked by reports that author-

ities had demolished a mosque

of the Sunni Muslim minority

in the northern city of Mas-

hhad. Reports about the de-

molition of the mosque were

Mr. Rafsanjani, who was elected to a second four-year

term last August, has been

among the country's top lead-

ers since the revolution. He

has reportedly survived several

Iran's supreme leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamanei said

on Sunday the "aborted

attempt on the life of the presi-

dent" was a plot of "Satanic

powers" to eliminate Iranian

speaking at the shrine of

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini,

the founder of the Islamic Re-

oublic. Mr. Rafsaniani was

addressing tens of thousands of

followers on Tuesday at the

start of 10 days of celebration

marking the 15th anniversary

of the Iranian revolution when

five pistol shots were heard.

scribed the shots as faint and

probably fired from a small-

shots was more than 50 metres

from the platform. At least one

man was seen being hustled

IRNA quoted Ayatollah

Khamanei as describing the

incident as an abortive assas-

sination attempt and the latest

example of plots of Satanic

powers to physically eliminate

Muslim Nation of one of the

prominent, efficient and de-

votee personalities of the

Islmaic republic, our beloved president," Ayatollah Kha-manei said of Mr. Rafsanjani,

a cleric himself with the rank of

they were frustrated as in many

of their previous plots and treasons," Ayatollah Khamanei said.

"But thank God this time

Hojatoleslam.

"They attempted to strip the

Iranian religious leaders.

away by security men.

calibre pistol.

Witnesses at the time de-

They said the origin of the

Avatoliah Khamanei was

assassination attempts.

spiritual leaders.

denied by local papers.

## 9 arrested over killing of 17 in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian security forces have arrested nine members of a drug-trafficking gang who killed 17 people in armed attacks in southeastern Iran, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Monday. The arrest took place the weekend after the authorities sent police reinforcements to Sistan-Baluchestan province to track down the gunmen. The gang shot dead two people in an attack on a bus Saturday in the Nosratabad region, some 100 kilometres east of the provincial capital Zahedan. The suspects, all members of a powerful Baluchi tribe known as the Nahtanis, admitted. killing 15 other bus passengers in highway attacks around Zahedan, IRNA said.

### Iran, Pakistan to hold naval exercises

TEHERAN (AFP) - Iran and Pakistan are to hold joint naval exercises in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean soon, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani said Monday. Adm. Shamkhani, quoted by Tehran Radio. said the exercises would last four days, but did not give a specific date for them. He is currently visiting Pakistan. The exercises will be Iran's first to be held jointly with a foreign country since the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the Shah. The Iranian army has a tradition of cooperation with Pakistan's armed forces.

### Kuwait cabinet backs voter increase plan

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's cabinet has approved a legal amendment that would grant the vote and the right to run as parliamentary candidates to more of its male citizens, the official Kuwait News Agency reported. Political analysts have said the change, which has still to be debated by parliament, could expand by a third the men-only electorate in the next general elections due in 1996. The agency said late on Sunday the cabinet had agreed to add to a 1959 emiri decree a clause granting male children of naturalised Kuwaitis so-called first class citizenship provided they were born after their fathers, were naturalised. The change, the first major electoral reform in 30 years, was given preliminary approval by the cabinet last

### French hostages said in good health

PARIS (R) - Two French woman and a Frenchman abducted by Yemeni tribesmen two weeks ago are in good health, a French foreign ministry spoekswoman said on Monday. She told reporters a doctor from the French embassy in Sannaa visited them last week. "They are in good health," she said. The three were kidnapped on Jan 23 by tribesmen in the Hajjah area northwest of the capital Sanaa to protest against the rerouting of a main road originally planned to cross their land. The spokeswoman said France's ambassador in Sanaa would not discuss the abductors' demands and had requested in contacts with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and government ministers that the three be immediately and unconditionally freed. Tribal sources said earlier this month government envoys promised the abductors to redress their grievances but failed to persuade them to release the hostages.

### Two tankers collide in Turkish waters

ISTANBUL (R) — Two small oil product tankers collided in the Turkish sea of Marmara Monday, causing a minor oil spill, but no injuries, a port official said. The Turkish 490 gross tonne Nerve-729 and the St. Vincent-flagged 1,984 gross tonne Star 5 collided off the village of Aksas, near the mouth of the Dardanelles, the port authority of Karabiga town said. Both ships were heavily damaged, he said. The Star 5 was laden with gas and oil and was sailing from Israel to the Turkish port of Izmit while the Merve-729 was going to the Aegean Port of Aliaga from Izmit at the time of the collision.. It was carrying no load. The official said about 424 tonnes of oil from the Star 5 spilled into the sea, polluting shoreline beaches.

## Hilton closes in Algeria; group claims 70 rivals killed

ALGIERS (AP) — The Hilton Hotel closed Sunday for an indefinite period, the latest victim of a violent campaign against foreigners by Islamic fighters.

The group that threatened expatriates claimed it killed 70 members of a rival armed

The Hilton, which opened in August, closed its doors at noon, six days after a French cameraman was shot to death in the Casbah and his Australian colleague seriously wound-

Twenty-seven foreigners have been killed since late September, most of them after a Nov. 30 deadline for foreigners to leave set by the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical of the fighting movements trying to topple the

military-backed government. A statement signed by the Armed Islamic Group, received Sunday by the French news agency Agence France-Presse, said it killed 70 members of the Armed Islamic Movement, considered an umbrella group for numerous fighting cells.

The statement, dated Feb. 5, could not be authenticated. It gave no date for the "executions," which followed a "verdict of the sharia." It was faxed to the news agency and signed from "the state of the Islamic caliphate in Algeria."

There was no mention in official statements from Algerian authorities to signal the killings. Security forces said Sunday that they had killed 13 rebels from Tuesday to Thursday in scattered parts of the

The Armed Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three French consular employees in October

and some other killings. Thousands of foreigners have fled since the Nov. 30

deadline. Western embassies have reduced their staff and taken special precautions. The Danish embassy said last week it was transferring its functions

The Armed Islamic Group statement, were it authentic, would signal that divisions within the armed movement are at the point of no return. It would render even more difficult efforts by Algerian authorities to end two years of violence through dialogue with Muslim fundamentalists.

Some 3,000 people have been killed since the army cancelled January 1992 parliamentary elections to thwart a victory by the Islamic Salvation

Officials have said that 'positive contacts" with Islamic Salvation Front repre-

sentatives are underway. The Armed Islamic Group has in the past warned against dialogue, threatening "the worst of deaths" to anyone seeking reconciliation.

The movement is considered close to the Islamic Salvation Front, which has said it is opposed to targeting fore-

The statement castigated the chief of the Armed Islamic Movement, Said Mekhloufi, a lieutenant who deserted from the Algerian army, as a "traitor" and "agent of the government." It said Mr. Mekhloufi's group was trying to bring down the Armed Islamic Group in a "plot that coincides with maneouvres around what is being called dialogue, which we have warned against and which has become a concrete reality."

Islamic Salvation Front officials in exile have in the past dismissed as not serious infighting among the armed groups while admitting differences exist.

tify the group. Mr. Rafsanjani on Friday suggested the United States and the West were behind the shooting. Authorities have accused Mr. Akhtar of firing several

shots last Tuesday as Mr. Rafsanjani addressed a crowd at the shrine of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini outside Tehran to mark the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. Mr. Fallahian claimed mem-

bers of Mr. Akhtar's group met to discuss their plans on the night prior to the assassination attempt, Hamshahri said.

Some Iranians doubt the. official version of the shooting, claiming it was stage-managed to boost Mr. Rafsanjani's image at a time when his government is mired in crisis.

Mr. Rafsanjani has come in for worsening criticism in re-cent months for his failure to revive Iran's moribund economy and improve the living conditions of the country's 60 million people, most of whom

live below the poverty line. With oil prices at a five-year low and Iran's foreign debts estimated at \$30 billion, the country's economic problems

over economic conditions in

Riots erupted last Tuesday

seem to be coming to a head.

There have been reports of unrest in many Iranian cities the past few years.

in the southeastern city of Zahedan where demonstrators clashed with security forces, broke shop windows and burned the Iranian flag. News

### Killing of witness raises fear among Egyptians Saturday in the trial of Salah Suleiman and 14 other suspolice came and the armoured

ARAB AL HASWA, Egypt (AP) — The elegantly framed photograph on Sayed Yehia's wall showed him shaking hands with Egypt's top law enforcement official. The happy scene may have cost the 47-year-old automobile dealer his life.

The picture of Mr. Yehia was splashed across newspaper front pages after he captured a suspect in the attempted murder of Prime Minister Atef Sedki. On Friday, Mr. Yehia was shot to death before he could testify at the man's trial. The slaying raised questions

about the government's protection of witnesses and will increase fears among Egyptians already hesitant to get involved in the battle between the government and Islamic radicals.

"We are the ones who stood up to terrorism and we are hit by it now," said Mohammad. Mr. Yehia's younger brother. "Our brother Kamal helped in the arrest, and now we are wondering who is next."

Sayed Yehia was to testify

**JORDAN TELEVISION** 

pected militants for the November car bombing aimed at Dr. Sedki. Instead he was buried in this village 40 kilometres north of Cairo. On Friday night, three sus-

pected militants sprayed Mr. Yehia's auto showroom with automatic rifle fire, killing him along with a customer, an employee and a private guard. A policeman friend visiting Mr. Yehia was shot in the leg.

After Mr. Yehia's funeral Saturday, friends and family complained the government failed to protect him. The Interior Ministry did not issue Mr. Yehia a promised submachine gun until almost two weeks after the arrest and guards sent to protect him disappeared after 24 hours, family members said.

Magda, Mr. Yehia's sister, picked up the slain man's oneyear-old son and wailed: "This is his baby. The government could not protect the father. After he was killed all the

cars, but it was too late." No Interior Ministry spokes-

man was available for comment. The daily Al . Gomhuriya quoted one official as saying undercover guards had been protecting Mr. Yehia. But he added complete protection was impossible and complained that Mr. Yehia endangered himself by keeping his car agency open too late.

Mr. Yehia, a father of four, got involved in the case when he sold the auto later used in the car-bombing. Prime Minister Sedki escaped injury but an 11-year-old girl bystander was

Mr. Yehia tried to arrest the car's buyer, identified as Suleiman, when he came back to haggle about money still owed. The man fled, but Mr. Yehia caught him after an 18kilometre chase in a car.

Mr. Yehia was given a 40,000 Egyptian pound (\$11,000) reward, had his picture taken with Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi, and was told he would get protection. His heroism got much publicity as part of the government's campaign to convince the public to inform on extremists. Gen. Alfi praised Yehia and

his brother, telling the Al

Akhbar newspaper: "If everyone bravely resisted as they have done, it would be the end of terrorism.' Nearly 300 people have been killed in the militants' campaign to displace the secular government with Islamic rule. But many Egyptians fear the militants or see themselves as

A cousin, Amir, said people would now be even more afraid to give information to police. Soldiers sent to guard Mr. Yehia's showroom after the slaying nodded in agree-

outsiders in a battle between

the extremists and the govern-

'Nobody will dare open their mouths," the brother Mohammad said. "Maybe I and my family will leave the

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Electric Power

### Tcl: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO .. Le Chateau Des Oliviers ..... News in French Le Cirque Mondial . News in Arabi .. News in English . The Cape Rebel

# PRAYER TIMES

# CHURCHES

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| 628543.<br>Armenian Catholic Church   | Tel.       |
| 771331.<br>Armenian Orthodox Church   | Tel.       |
| 775261.<br>St. Ephraios Church Tcl. 77175<br>Amman International Church                         | 1.<br>Tel. |
| 652526.<br>Evangelical Lutheran Church  |            |
| 824328. German-speaking Evang Congregation Tel. 684195  |            |
| The Church of Jesus Chris   | t of       |
| Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932<br>Church of Nazarene Tci.675691.<br>The Evangelical Local Church |            |
| Amman Tel. 811295.  |            |
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| WEATHER   |            |

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| Dr. Farouq Nour    | 786     |
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| HOSPITALS   |
| AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381393; Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/A Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/, Jabal Amman Maternity 64236; Malhas, J. Amman |

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| Malhas, J. Amman   | 636140                                 |
| Palestine, Shrpcisani  | 664171/4                               |
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| Al-Muasher Hospital  | 667777/9                               |
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| Amal Hospital  | 674 55                                 |
| ZARQA: Î   |  |
| Zarqa Govi, Hospital   | . (09)983323                           |
| Carga National Hospital .                                    | (09)900560                             |
| Ibn Sina Hospital  | /00100/727                             |
| Al Hikma Modern Hospital ,.                                  | (U7)70U/3Z                             |
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| Greek Catholic Hospital                                      | (02)272275                             |
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## .. (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)57200-5. where it should always be verified.

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) . Jakarta, Kusla Lumpur (RJ) Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ) Agaba (Rt Doha, Bahrain (RJ) ...... London (RJ)

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Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

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verage of two of er House of Parliament Monnds were entering the interior condemning the continued Sermilies who had a population of Bosnia and appealed to international organizations, parliaments, the line ited Nations and human rights in the United groups to help put an end to in from her directed at civilians."

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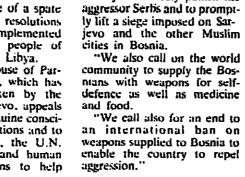
This attack came while the international community is keeping silent and sufficing itself with mere decisions which offer only lip service to the Bosnian people.

"In contrast, the world witnesses the issuance of a spate of United Nations resolutions that are promptly implemented against the Arab people of

Iraq. Somalia and Libya. The Lower House of Parliament in Jordan, which has been deeply shaken by the massacre in Sarajevo, appeals to those with a genuine conscience in various nations and to world parliaments, the U.N. Security Council and human rights organisations to help

ding of innocent people's blood, and to guarantee security for the people of Bosnia whose free will and independence should be respected.

"We call on the world community to severely punish the ly lift a siege imposed on Sar-





REVIEWING MILITARY EDUCATION: Education Minister Khaled Al Omari (right) Monday meets with the commander of the People's Army. Dr. Omari called for activating the military education programme which is taught at schools around the Kingdom in ecoperation with the People's Army command. He said the ministry, through its Student Activities Department, was trying to amend the programme to make it compatible to students' desires and interests. The programme, which was launched three years ago, is now implemented within one week instead of two weeks, the minister said. He said the ministry is currently planning to hold productive programmes for students during the summer

### pared by partiag ectorate in the CARE Australia to finance y said late on Se development projects in south ajor electoral mir al by the cabinate

AMMAN (J.T.) — CARE Hall. Australia Monday signed s agreements with voluntary and charitable organisations to Frenchman abds: help them finance develope in good health: ment projects in the Tafileh. id on Monday 2 Ma'an and Karak governo-

CARE representative in Jordan, Joanna Hall, who signed the agreements, said in a stateanned to cross# ment that the agreements marked the beginning of a programme by CARE to implement numerous projects in Jordan, particularly in the

Such projects, she said, inciude sheep-fattening, water canal maintenance, food processing, establishing a brick factory and an aluminum

These projects will cost 1066,000 of which CARE will contribute JD 39,185. The batance will come as donations from other sources, said Ms.

said in the future CARE Abdul Rahim Salam, deputy plans to fund personnel training and feasibility studies on economic projects for the poor

CARE is a humanitarian, non-profit secular organisation concerned with emergency assistance to people in need and local community development in the spirit of self-help.

For the past two years, CARE Australia has been active in emergency relief projects for Iraq. Jordan, Yemen and Mauritania through its regional office located in Amman, according to a CARE office statement.

The statement said that CARE has recently become involved in small, local community development projects in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and hopes to further expand its

secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development, attended the signing of the agreements, and later said that the ministry was eager to cooperate closely with international organisations and local voluntary groups to promote community development and help the needy.

He voiced appreciation to CARE Australia for its drive to help the poor families in

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, CARE said that it recently constructed a canal network in Zai, near Salt, at a cost of JD 10.000 and donated JD 15,000 to the displaced Bosnian families living in Amman and JD 10,000 to reports said. the Lebanese families whose property was damaged. in Israeli raids.

## Aqaba palm forest creates 25 jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — The palm tree forest development pro-ject in Aqaba, began in 1992 by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), tes created jobs for three agricontrol engineers and 22 farm-table, according to a QAF

When QAF undertook to develop the 1,500 dunum forest area for a period of 30 years, its aim was to grow dates which provide nutritional food. to create jobs for local citizens and also expand the green areas in the Agaba region, said the statement.

computer facility for teaching informatics don-

ated to the Royal Scientific Society by the United

QAF has plans to plant 27,000 palm trees in the forest which would produce an estimated 500 tonnes of dates annually, according to the

statement. To date nearly half (700 dunums) of the area involved is planted with date palms. In addition to these trees, which came from Tunisia,

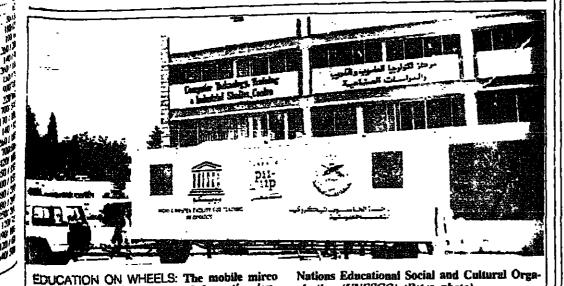
Egypt, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, QAF said it has planted 1,466 citrus trees

The project has been funded by the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP), and the trees are irrigated by a drip irrigation system which utilises water numped from a local aretesian well and re-cycled, treated waste water.

The forest will also serve as a research centre for scientists and agricultural engineers and as a public recreational centre in the future, said the QAF statement.

It said all revenues earned from the development of the forest will help finance OAF's numerous projects mainly targeting needy families in the rural regions.



nisation (UNESCO) (Petra photo)

# \*Muslim refuse House condemns Serbian attacks of Parliament Mon. Muslim refuse days throw of Parliament Mon. Muslims. "This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon." This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. This attack came while the ding of innucent people's note of Parliament Mon. in Kingdom's meat, livestock mark t

By Ian Atalia Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Talks between the delegation of the Western Australian Ministry of Com-merce and Trade, Jordanian businesspersons and counterparts from the public sector Monday first focused on a request by Jordanian officials that Australia expand its imports of phosphate from the

The request was prompted by the need to help adjust the current trade imbalance between the two countries, which at present amounts to \$45 to \$50 million, according to Marwan Awad, the secretarygeneral of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The second major focus of the talks was the Australian's efforts to consolidate and strengthen their already considerable role in Jordan's meat and livestock market.

According to Radi Ibrahim, the minister of supply, there are currently 120,000 to 120,000 head of Australian livestock in Jordan.

The Australian delegation. headed by Western Australia Deputy Premier and Minister of Commerce Hendy Cowan, Monday visited the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Supply, and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Awad told the delegation that "there is a huge trade deficit between the two countries, and I don't think we can close our eyes to that. It is very important in our view to increase phosphate exports to

Current exports of Jordanian phosphate to Australia amount to 200,000 tonnes a year, out of an export total of 7 million per year.

Mr. Cowan responded favourably. "Western Australia is a significant user of phosphate and potash fertilisers, and our internal production of these chemicals is limited. Therefore, there is an opportunity to competitively sell your products there," he said.

Mr. Cowan said that his ministry would approach pri-vate business copie in West-ern Australia to look into the

Members of the Australian team stressed that Western Australia's commercial relationship with Jordan was a vital \*90 per cent of Jordan's ex-

ports to Australia find their way to Western Australia. And with a domestic market of only 1.7 million people, we depend on exports. The Middle East market represents to us nearly \$1 billion yearly of business.

Western Australia's main industry, besides herding and agriculture, is mining. It produces 37 per cent of the world's diamonds, 10 cer cent of its gold, and 12 per cent of its iron ore, according to delegation

They stressed that "a significant issue for us are our exports to Jordan of live sheep,' adding that Australian livestock businesses had completed work on breeding a herd of livestock "specifically bred for the Middle East market. These sheep are not saleable in Australia and we have worked

Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim (third from right) Monday holds talks with a Western Australia delegation headed by Hendy Cowan,

deputy premier and minister of commerce (second from left) (Petra photo)

very hard to breed them. This trade is vital for us and we don't want to see it lost."

Mr. Awad replied that he was certainly ready to encourage imports of the livestock from Australia.

Officials at the Ministry of Supply told the delegation that they were concerned about the current prices Australian shipping merchants were charging to snip livestock to Jordan, which they described as exces-

They suggested allowing Jordanian shippers to compete for the business to cut down the rates through competition, or opening a special direct shipping line to transport the

One Australian representative told officials at the Ministry of Supply that "there is a strong possibility with the peace process for Jordan to become a large re-exporter of our products. We see an opportunity for livestock to be shipped here, slaughtered here, processed and then re-

exported. There is also an

opportunity for us to come and build slaughterhouses and new processing facilities here."

Mr. Cowan said that a number of Australian companies were interested in building such facilities, and were already bidding for contracts to build slaughterhouses in the Agaba Free Zone and Amman Municipality, where, said one delegation member, "the present slaughterhouse is a very poor facility."

The Australian team left Jordan Monday evening.

## Archaeology conference to be held in Turin in '94

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan Monday said the next International Conference on the Archaeology of Jordan will be held in the Italian city of Turin in 1995.

Archaeologists, historians » and other experts from different countries will take part in the conference which is usually held every three years, said Dr. Adwan following a meeting with Italian ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini.

At the meeting, the two officials discussed coordinating Italian and Jordanian efforts to market Jordan's tourist attractions in Italy.

They also reviewed the contributions by the Italian government and specialised institutions to the archaeological excavation seasons and the restoration of archaeological sites in Jordan, said the minister.

In addition, he said the terms of a protocol for the establishment of a Jordanian-Italian archaeology Institute will soon be signed by both The institute is to be head-

quarterd in Amman and financed jointly by both governments, said Dr. Adwan. According to Dr. Adwan, discussions with Mr. Bettini

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan (right) Monday meets with Italian also covered prospects for in-

Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini (Petra photol the archaeological excavations

creasing Italian assistance to under way in Jerash and Petra. Jordan, especially to the Mr. Bettini extended an offimosaics school in Madaba and

cial invitation to Dr. Adwan to visit Italy and attend the opening of the International Tourism Conference in Milan.

## Police search for couple in stabbing of elderly man

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Ramtha police are searching for a couple who Sunday allegedly stabbed a 60-year-old man, tied him up, stole JD 5,000 from him and disappeared, police

The victim, a sheep merchant, identified only as N.M.S., told police he frequently travelled with the couple to Amman and he always carried large sums of money on him.

Preliminary investigations by police indicate that N.MS. went to the couple's house Sunday to pick the man and woman up to go to Amman to get some paper work done. There, said police reports, the elderly man was stabbed with a knife by the husband. N.M.S. fell to the floor and the man and his wife tied him with a rope, placed a piece of cloth in his mouth and fled

The victim was discovered later by his 35-year-old son who told police he was passing by the couple's house and heard moaning. The son said he checked through the window and saw his father tied up on the floor.

He said he called his brothers and together they broke down the door and rescued their father. N.M.S. was taken to

Ramtha Military Hospital where he was reported in fair condition. Police said the couple had

rented the house they were living in, and that they disappeared after the attack on the elderly man.

A six-year-old child Sunday was killed and her 15-year-old sister was reported in critical

Child dies in car accident

condition when they were run over by a car driven by a 35-year-old man, according to police reports. Khadijeh Mansour was cros-

sing a street with her older sister Hourieh in one of Amman's suburbs, when they were struck by the car. When civil defence officers

arrived at the scene of the accident, Khadijeh was already dead. Her sister was rushed to a nearby hospital for treat-

Hospital scurces said the girl is suffering from a head injury, and was listed in critical condi-A traffic official said the-

driver of the car was at fault for not yielding to pedestrians. Khadijeh is the third child to die in a traffic accident since the beginning of February. A seven-vear-old Zarga boy killed when he was struck by a speeding car on Feb. 1.

A day later an eight-year-old girl was killed in Sweifieh when the school bus she was riding ran over her after dropping her off near her home.

Two other children Sunday were struck by cars in separate

One, a five-year-old from Jabal Nasr, was reported in serious condition. The other, a four-year-old from Karak was

A 20-year-old Baqaa male was detained by police after he

19-year-old stabbed to death

confessed to killing a 19-yearold male in Baqaa Sunday evening, police reports said. The suspect, identified as S.M.A., told police he stabbed H.K.S. following an argument between the two.

The victim was taken to Jordan University Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the suspect first resisted arrest and escaped. But later he surrendered after police discovered the weapon (a switch blade) allegedly used in the crime.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.

☆ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery -Mecca Street.

\* Art exhibition by artist Huda Saml Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.

☆ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720902).

☆ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Windawi at the Royal Cultural Čentre.

Art exhibition by artists Akram Isawi and Jamal Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre. ★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funum of the Abdul Pinneed Shoman Foundation. Also

showing the "perm- ent" exhibition of 54 Arab contempor-

ary artists. (Tel. 643251/2) Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at

Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932). ☆ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Yasser Hmoud at the Baladna Art Gallery (Wasfi Al Tal Street).

Setting Industry Standards: Ministry of Trade and Industry Secretary General Marwan Awad (centre) Monday opens a three-day seminar on "standardisation and its role in industry." The ministry, in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GZT) organised the seminar at the Amman Philadelphia Hotel, for representatives of the private and public

sectors in the country. A total of 100 engineers, technicians and specialists in specifications and standards are attending. They will discuss requirements for ensuring the minimum level of quality needed in manufactured products, ways of ensuring protection for the environment from industrial work and other relevant subjects.

## By Rami G. Khouri

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Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

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## Encounter, with words

IT APPEARS that the international outcry over the killing of 68 Bosnians and the wounding of many others in a mortar attack on Saturday will confine itself once again to mere rhetoric about the need to establish peace in the former Yugoslavia. U.S. President Bill Clinton, once a champion of the cause of Bosnia's independence and territorial integrity, saw in the attack an occasion to reinforce the call for peace in the country, but has done little on the ground to stop the fighting. The international community, especially the affected Bosnians, must be awefully tired of hearing the expressions of sentiments for peace while the indiscriminate killings and widespread suffering go on unabated.

President Clinton's worn-out pledge to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnians if the massacres continued has a shallow tone to it. and we wish that he would stop making false promises that his administration has no intention to keep. Only a week ago, the U.S. Senate voted by an overwhelming majority to end the arms embargo on Bosnia. Republican Senate leader Robert Dole has likewise repeatedly assured the White House that the American people would solidly back effective U.S. air strikes on Serbian gunners besieging Sarajevo. Yet nothing has happened, although other Western capitals are starting to feel more heat by the recent deaths in the Sarajevo marketplace. Unfortunately, though, most are offering no more than useless ideas to defuse the situation. One capital is calling for investigation, as if an attack of this sort needs an investigation and does not fall into a familiar pattern. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali may be edging closer to authorising aerial attacks, but he is not there yet by a long shot. This time, however, the secretary general has tried a turnaround by asking for permission from NATO to launch air strikes, exactly when the Western powers keep on asserting that they are still awaiting authorisation from the U.N.

There is every fear that the continued bloodshed in Bosnia would increase the religious overtones of the conflict. There is nothing worse than to develop the fighting in Bosnia into a religious warfare that would have the seeds for international division on religious grounds. The world is already torn up by scores of flashpoints and can ill afford a religious dimension at a time when reasonable men and women are desperately trying to promote religious tolerance. There are now more and louder calls for an Islamic response, something that does not augur well for the new international order. Even the 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was not spared a frontal attack when one Gulf statesman depicted its objectives as "only to hold meetings and spend millions on meetings." While such a description of the OIC is not totally wrong, the biggest concern lies in the fact that religious conflicts need to be contained as soon as possible for fear that their fallout could engulf the entire globe with a new cycle of violence. This is a dimension of the Bosnian crisis that 's for solid actions, and not just rhetorical

### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

re. tions as has been the case so far.

COMMENTING on the massacre in Sarajevo that resulted in the death of more than 66 people, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that this horrible act of genocide drew mere verbal reactions from the Western capitals but nothing is being done to punish the culprits. Even the Arab League, which has so far condoned the atrocities committed against the Iraqi people, has followed the example of the Western capitals by voicing condemnation by mere words without moving to lend a helping hand to the victims, said the paper. The Western countries continue to deceive that the world by claiming that they are contemplating measures to stem the killing and to deter the aggressors, but in fact the West is bent on helping the murderers to eliminate the Muslim people of Bosnia, charged the daily. Before the funeral of the victims has ended, the seeming anger over the attack on Sarajevo will calm down in Washington and the other Western capitals as well as the Arab

League which would once again delve into its long slumber, poerturbed by the death of the Iraqi children or this massacre of the Bosnian women. In this situation, the Serbs who committed this and many other crimes against the Muslims will have the cou. - to pursue their action further, it added.

The View from Fourth Circle

# Thanks, Doc, for a needed prologue

The parliamentary debate on the food and medicines controversy unleashed by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas was very impressive, but also slightly sad. It was impressive because of the manner in which an issue of great political sensitivity and public importance was openly and honestly discussed, with a credible degree of democratic give-and-take hetween the government and the parliamentarians.

It was also impressive for the decisive decisions by the executive and legislative branches to ask the public prosecutor to study the allegations thoroughly, to initiate legal cases against alleged violators of the pertinent laws, and to strengthen the control systems relating to food and medicines. On all these counts, the young Jordanian democratic system was rather effective, at least in the rhetoric department. We heard many good things. It remains to be seen what action

The parliamentary debate probably accurately reflected the spectrum of opinion in society as a whole vis-a-vis the key issues at hand, i.e. should the minister of health have launched his campaign with an interview to a sensational tabloid newspaper? Could he not have dealt with the alleged violations through the existing machinery at his disposal?

These were not questions that could be answered with a definitive ves or no. They were judgements and opinions that needed to be expressed in a public forum, and this is precisely what happened in a constructive and rational manner (despite the still obvious sensitivity of the government and some MPs to public criticism - a sensitivity that will moderate in time, as our culture adapts to a public system of democratic pluralism and as the individuals involved adapt to the give-and-take of the public accountability of public servants).

The issue of alleged corruption among government officials was also mentioned frequently, and both the government and the MPs were Olympian in their verbal commitment to fighting corruption and safeguarding the wellbeing of the people. We'll have to wait and see what happens in the months ahead in the fight against corruption. It is unlikely that all cases of corruption will miraculously disappear because the government and the MPs waved their arms, vowed to fight for goodness, and condemned corruption as an evil that must be stamped out. Yet, the mere fact that corruption was raised as an issue of public concern is a positive development. We will soon find out if the probe into these charges will get any further than the probes against individuals accused of wrongdoing after the 1989 parliamentary elections.

Compared to most other countries in the Middle East. Jordan was heroic in its commitment to an honest, open discussion of issues that touched on both the personal wellbeing of the citizenry and the conduct of public officials. The rest of the Middle East, however, is a dubious standard against which to judge our progress on the democratisation front. We should be careful about patting ourselves on the back for being tidy in a largely messy neighbourhood.

Nevertheless, the last two weeks were generally positive in this respect, and we should recognise the good news while not hesitating to point out the had news.

The bad news, I would suggest, is that the whole controversy sparked by Dr. Malhas' interview never really touched the main point that underlies the food and medicines controversy and others like it that probably await future exposure. That main point is the capacity of our public sector to play the quality control, supervisory and watchdog functions that are its legal and moral obligation.

The specific accusations about merchants who pressured the government to give them favourable decisions on imports or prices are not surprising, in view of the large profits that stand to be made. This is the central weakness that makes the government and many of its personnel susceptible to charges of wrongdoing - the fact that there is so much money available to be made in the private sector, while the public sector languishes under the intolerable burden of limited funds that have to be distributed in the form of salaries amongst a

Petty and massive corruption are likely to occur when three things happen, as have happened in Jordan and most of the rest of the Middle East in the second half of this century; when the central government is the major employer in the economy and also controls most spending that determines the fate of the national economy, and when there are no serious checks and balances on executive authority.

We suffer the additional problem of having a dynamic private sector and allowing free movement of people, which means that talented individuals can look to the private sector or employment abroad if they do not find government work professionally or financially satisfying. The result: a steady drain of the best minds out of public service and into the private sector or abroad, and a growing gap between salaries in the private and public sectors.

There is little doubt, as a result, that the quality of the public sector as a whole has declined in recent decades. While this may lead to some corruption - the parliamentary debate suggests that such a feeling is widespread - the more important problem is that it could lead to large-scale mismanagement or even incompetence. Specifically, the new threat that confronts our societies today and in the near future is whether or not the public sector has the combination of human expertise and organisational capacity to deal with the political power of the private sector and its alluring money.

The private sector is no angel, of course; corporate greed will drive many private businesspeople to maximise their profits at the expense of the public's wellbeing, even through the use of bribes, favours, gifts, and other dubious means. Many government bureaucrats will find themselves in situations where they are unable to resist the temptations of private sector offerings. How can we expect a mid-level bureaucrat earning JD 150 a month to deal with the political and financial

pressures that can be brought to bear on him or her by the likes of global corporate giants that manufacture soft drinks, cigarettes, and other items that have a mass market potential

In the last three decades, we have witnessed the inability of government officials to formulate tough policies that are in the interest of the people as a whole, because such policies may. hurt some special interest groups. We have seen our currency lose more than half its foreign exchange value. We have seen the finest rainfed agricultural lands in our western highlands sacrificed at the altar of commercial real estate profiteering. We have watched our underground water reserves slowly squeezed to a dangerous level where permanent damage may be inevitable. We have witnessed the emergence of serious environmental problems without sufficiently strong prevention or remedial programmes.

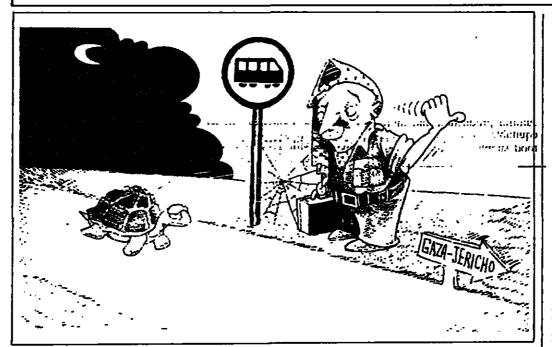
Historians and political psychologists will have to determine the reasons for these facts. I cannot say if this is a consequence of sheer mediocrity by public officials who faced problems they could not handle, or a case of intelligent, honest and hard-working individuals who were unable to withstand the political and other pressures that they were subjected to.

The fact remains that our public sector today is being asked to play the vital role of legal and moral watchdog of society, but it is not being given the personnel or the financial means needed to play that role. It is not surprising, then, that our society should suffer some corruption. It is surprising, however, that we should allow the causes of corruption and mismanagement to continue for so long, without addressing

We have a political system in place today that allows for an open, honest discussion of such sensitive issues. Dr. Malhas has done the country a real service by provoking a debate on the food and medicines sector. He should be thanked for his courage and his decisiveness, and perhaps even pencilled in forhigher office in the future. What has happened in the last two weeks, though, is merely prologue. The real show has yet to

It remains now for the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the Parliament headed by Taher Al Masri and Ahmad Al Lawzi to provide the leadership that their people expect from them — leadership in identifying the underlying causes of public sector mismanagement and corruption, and action to redress the causes. To evade such a responsibility would be simply to compound the problems and weaknesses of the recent past, and to postpone the day of reckoning until the problems caused by current trends are routinely catastrophic, rather than merely the cause of episodic news dramas. If the government and the parliament want to work together for the long-term public good, as they say they do, here's a good place to start.

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# An irreversible process

By Yitzhak Rabin

IN THE last decade of our 20th century, walls of hatred have fallen, peoples have been liberated, and artificial barriers have disappeared, powers have crumbled and ideologies have collapsed.

It is our sacred duty, to ourselves and to our children, to see the new world as it is now, to note its dangers, explore its prospects, and do everything possible so that the state of Israel will fit into the changing face of this world. I think that in recent years the world has shrunk and no nation can solve its problems alone, and no country should think that it is isolated. Each nation should overcome those feelings and act in world and regional cooperation. We wish that our region will also join this movement towards peace, reconciliation and cooperation that is spreading over the globe these days.

I have committed myself and my government to the present peace process, and I have expressed on many occasions my hope that 1994 will be a year during which a peace agree-ment can be reached with our Arab neighbours. We believe with all our hearts that peace is possible, that it is imperative,

and that it will come. For much of my life I was a soldier. I took part in Israel's wars, as well as Israel's march for peace. As one who has been a soldier, I can still see as though it were just yesterday — the rows of fallen comrades lining the road to Jerusalem in our war of independence; the skeletons of the burnt-out vehicles; the burning trucks; and the thousands of besieged Jerusalemites coming out towards us to get their sacks of sugar, and rice and

jerry cans of water. As one who was a commander, I know that before we decided -- before I decided -- to go into battle, we always saw before us - and will always see - the eves of the soldiers asking whether this is vital, whether there isn't some other choice.

Only one who, year after year, stands facing the thousands and tens of thousands of silent mourners in the cemeteries on Memorial Day, only one who has seen worlds destroyed and families devastated knows just how important peace is to us.

Nevertheless, as the son of a people that was exiled from its land as the son of a people to whom the picture of the child with raised hands in the Warsaw ghetto returns at night, I ask for your understanding and undivided attention: For us, peace, as important as it is. cannot prevail without security, Israel will be very forthcoming in its quest for peace, but it will not compromise on its security.

Israel is ready for peace and is willing to take risks and make dramatic decisions. But any risk or decision should be well calculated, for hasty actions could bring upon us irreversi-

As chief of staff during the Arab-Israeli war, I promised myself that I would be the last commander of the Israeli army who would have to face untenable borders, unreasonable lines of defence, and the threat of annihilation. The security of our children, our security is essential.

If we have security, we will also have peace - for all the inhabitants of our country and for its neighbours.

The government of Israel recognises that in order to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and for peace to be real and permanent, it must be inclusive of all the parties to the conflict participating in the present peace process.

The U.S. has generated a formula which serves both as a procedural and substantive term of reference to the peace process. We believe very firmly that there is no need to alter this formula, for it responds to our long quest to hold direct negotiations with those Arab parties invited to this process according to the Madrid Letter of Invitation. We should not lose precious time.

Our aim is to conclude a set of bilateral peace agreements in each and every track of negotiations in order to meet the objective of establishing a comprehensive, just and last-

ing peace. The problem now is one of substance. I am convinced that temporary setbacks and difficulties in our negotiations with the PLO will not stop us from reaching an agreement. The road to peace is irreversible. Therefore I do believe that we should persevere in our efforts aimed at implementing our agreement with the PLO.

We don't have any territorial designs in Lebanon and our problems with Jordan could be solved fairly easily. However, Lebanon will not budge without Syria's blessing.

President Clinton met with President Assad in Geneva on Jan. 16. Out of this event came a hope that we should explore carefully in order to be sure that Syria genuinely means to achieve the kind of peace and security we are looking for, a peace that would last for generations to come, a peace that would put an end to the sufferings, plight and fear of all the peoples in the Middle East. a peace that would fulfill Prophet Isaiah's vision: "Nation shall not lift sword against nation, nor shall they learn war any more."

This is an excerpt from Prime Minister Rabin's address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe last week in Strasbourg. It is reprinted from

## Torn between East, West U.S. still to formulate post-cold war strategy

WASHINGTON - Torn between Europe and Asia, between trade policy and classic realpolitik, the United States is still trying to construct a coherent strategy in the post-cold war world.

The visit of Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to Washington Friday presents an opportunity to examine these issues anew. But analysts and officials are divided on how the various strands of policy might fit together.

Last November at a summit for Asian-Pacific nations in Seattle, President Clinton seemed to suggest that the United States would increasingly look to Asia and to encouraging trade as its top priorities in foreign affairs.

Secretary of State Warren Caristopher ruffled feathers by declaring that Europe was no longer the centre of the world.

That forced Mr. Clinton to soothe feelings during a January NATO summit by stating that Washington's new attention to Asia certainly did not come at the expense of its traditional cultural ties and de-cades of friendship with

All this is happening under a U.S. president who is less interested, less experienced and less engaged in foreign affairs than some of his predecessors. There is a feeling in

Washington that the priority is neither Asia nor Europe but Iowa, Texas and California and that all politics have become local. A decision to let Irish repub-

lican leader Gerry Adams visit the United States was taken largely because Mr. Clinton needs the support of prominent Irish-American politicians to push through health care Intervention to stop the war

in Yugoslavia was rejected because it "would threaten the survival of the fragile liberal coalition represented by this presidency," one State Department official said last year.

U.S. troops started leaving Somalia after 18 soldiers were killed in a firefight -- considered an unacceptable level of casualties for the world's only superpower in the post cold So what are U.S. priorities and what should they be? During the cold war, U.S. foreign policy consisted of opposing the Soviet Union anywhere and everywhere in the world. Everything else secondary.

According to Boston University Professor Uri Ra'anan, the priority should still be the future of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics.

"You don't require a foreign policy to do trade. Foreign policy has always been and remains security policy. It has to do with arms agreements, the creation of alliances and the prevention of weapon proliferation," he said.

In Mr. Ra'anan's view, the number one task facing Mr. Clinton is to rebuild NATO into an effective instrument that will be able to react to crises that are sure to lie ahead in Europe. But his view does not seem to be shared in the administration.

"In the past, the security threat gave us good reason to overlook discrepencies in economic relations," said a senior State Department official.

## Russia is vital link in NATO's partnership plans

By Nicholas Doughty Reuter

BRUSSELS - Eastern European states are racing to sign new military partnership deals with NATO but the alliance is increasingly worried that Russia — the most vital link in the chain — may not take part. NATO leaders offered

'partnership for peace" to its former Communist foes, including Russia, at a summit one month ago. Poland. Romenia, Lithuania and Estonia .ave all signed. Hungary. Uk: ine and Slovakia will do so t!... week.

The partnership, which provides for joint training. peacekeeping exercises and other military cooperation. was designed partly to ease Russian fears that NATO would rush to take on Moscow's former satellites as mem-

The idea was billed as a chance to include all countries in building greater security for Europe, while not excluding an expansion of NATO at some time in the future.

NATO diplomats said that while Russia had initially wel-

now indications that Moscow was unhappy with the rush to sign up by countries which see the partnership as the first step towards joining the 16-nation

"One of the central ideas behind partnership for peace was that it would be a way of including Russia, since it is the higgest power in Europe and the most important part of the iigsaw." said one NATO diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

We are increasingly worried by signals that Moscow may not be interested after

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said last week Moscow could not support the partnership if it was used as a vehicle for the integration of Eastern European states and former Soviet republics into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The problem is that this is precisely how Eastern European states see it. Romania, Poland, Lithuania and Estonia all stressed in signing the deal at NATO Headquarters that their aim was full membership. Eastern European states are increasingly worried by the rise of extreme nationalism in Russia and Moscow's more conservative line on foreign policy. which diplomats say has been heavily influenced by the

With signs that Russia may be edging away from reform. those countries are keener than ever to find shelter with NATO.

Russia wants U.N. approval to take more direct responsibility for keeping order in former Soviet republics and has raised problems recently over a landmark European arms treaty which limits the deployment of

its conventional forces." In addition, there is still tension between Moscow and the Baltic republics, part of the Soviet Union until 1991, ...

NATO diplomats say they have received conflicting signals from Moscow on the "partnership for peace" proposal and that it is unclear what Russia really means.

President Boris Yeltsin told U.S. President Bill Clinton after the NATO summit last month that Moscow would play an active role in the partnership

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# FAO sounds alarm:

### Freshwater growing scarce, misused him or her har sfacture soft diagram

**ESCWA** press release

tor market butter Seed the habitan mereased water prices and dicrecase to produce dieres that the man pressed with less water, the e seen more food with less water, the e seen our cure, annual report of the United aluc We have a Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the Grate of Food and Agriculture ter reserved State of Food and Agriculture ter reverse, by 1993 labelled freshwater as "an iment them." nergenes the damage in increasingly scarce and valuhergence of sen, able resource.

ly strong presents The report, expressed concern about the worldwide "fai-If have to determe lure to recognise and issued in his is a convey Rome accept that there is the faced probes a finite supply of water and warned: "As populations exligent himed warned: "As populations expand and economies grow, vere substandy vere subjected to competition for limited suporder to being a plies will intensify and so will attend water users." ratchdog of week conflicts among water users."

the financial me. A 78-page special chapter in sing, then, that a the report, on "Water policies sarbusus por and agriculture", reflected of corruption concern that "growing water without address scarcity and misuse of freshwater pose serious threats to susy that allows by tainable development." It INNUES, Dr. M. added that "competition Coking a debater among agriculture, industry he thanked but and cities for limited water wen pencilled mi supplies is already constraining ened in the last. development efforts in many

In his comments on the report, FAO Director-General Jacques: Diouf, said: "To adership that the underscore water's importin identifying ? ance, the FAO is devoting the theme of this year's World Food Day to 'Water for Life'  ${\rm id}$  the problems and will launch a public awarness campaign.

With more than two thirds of the water withdrawn from the earth's rivers, lakes and aquifers being used for irrigation, agriculture is the world's largest water user. Some 2.4 billion people depend on irrigated agriculture for jobs, food and incomes.

Over the next 30 years, the report predicts, 80 per cent of the additional food needed to feed the world will have to come from irrigated agriculture, just as increasingly scarce water supplies force agriculture to give up water to cities and industries.

According to the FAO report, domestic water users generally can afford to pay,

existing tax structure to de-

termine whether it would

lead to high prices in the

market and burden the

poor," said a source. "By the

time attention was given to

the details, it was too late

because people had already

framed their opinion and

judged that the sales tax was

no good for Jordan."
Mr. Gammoh conceded

Monday that there were dif-

fering viewpoints over the

draft law, which has been

under discussion for the past

30 months, and the final draft

was endorsed with a clear

understanding that the low-

meome group would be pro-

tected against any increase in

According to officials

familiar with the final draft,

the law sets 10 per cent as a

general rate of tax and allows

the rate to go up to 20 per

Any further upward revi-

sion of the rate and the

second phase of the tax to

include the services sector

will have to have parliamen-

tary endorsement in the form

The draft law, according to

the officials, provides for the

tax to be levied on landed

cost plus customs duties on

Importers, represented by

the Chamber of Commerce,

were demanding that the levy

be calculated on the landed

(Continued from page 1)

Maaytah, the embassy's first

secretary, outside his Beirut

home on Jan. 29 and seized

some documents from his

His Majesty King Hussein

who was away on an official visit to the U.S., when Mr.

Maaytah was murdered, told

reporters upon his return that

Jordan would not be "intimi-

dated by cowards and

(Continued from page 1)

and the airforce command in

Sanaa and Hodeida are held

responsible for the consequ-

ences of such illegal acts which

represent a serious precedent

threatening flights in the

Yemeni airspace and harming

release of the plane, its cargo

He called for the immediate

Yemen's reputation."

Abu Nidal behind Maayteh murder

Aden, Sanaa trade charges

cent for luxury items.

of a separate law.

imported products.

Cabinet to endorse tax law

more for water than agricultural users, while industrial water users provide more jobs, produce more income and earn a higher rate of return per unit of water than agriculture. Agriculture, the report says, "is also a relatively low-value. low-efficiency and highly subsidised water user.

'As populations expand and economies grow, competition for limited supplies will intensify and so will conflicts among users'

Water quantity and quality requirements differ widely depending on the use. The report cites a private study which calculates that about 15,000 cubic metres of water and normally sufficient to irrigate one hectare of rice. "This same amount," adds the study, "can supply: 100 nomads and 450 heads of stock for three years: or 100 rural families through house connections for four years: or 100 urban families for two years: or 100 luxury hotel guests for 55 days."

Though the rising cost of water will present unother obstacle for developing countries, the report said higher water prices should encourage farmers to use water more efficiently, while promoting water-saving technologies.

Today, despite "huge investments and subsidies." the report said, "irrigation performance indicators are falling short of expectations for yield increases, area irrigated and technical efficiency in water use. As much as 60 per cent of the water diverted or pumped for irrigation is wasted; in too

cost excluding customs, while

local industries, represented

by the Chamber of Industry,

argued that this would give

an edge to imported products

over locally manufactured

Manufacturers also argued

that they would be subject to double taxation; first when

their raw materials enter the

country and again when the

finished products leave their

production plants. But this

dispute was over by a prop-

osed arrangement under

which the taxes paid on entry

of raw material will be re-

duced from the tax calculated

Among other differences

that held up the draft law was

over the duration of the first

stage of implementing the tax

before expanding its cover-

A range of products, most-

and educational materials,

are exempted from the tax.

might turn out to be the final

"We have paid dearly in

blood in the past for our

principles, our ideals ... I

don't think that there are any

in this world who can intimi-

date this country," the King

tion and I think here we have

a nation which stands proud

and will continue to stand

and crew, Mr. King said the British Foreign Office had been informed of the incident.

Saleh and Vice-President Ali

Salem Ai Beedh have been

locked in a bitter feud for

months which threatens to tear

the country apart. The two

ruled North and South Yemen

respectively until the merger.

President Ali Abdullah

proud," he added.

"Nobody can murder a na-

judge in the controversy.

cowardly acts."

on final products.

the economy.

goods.

many cases this excess water seeps back into the ground, causing waterlogging and salinity. As much as one quarter of all irrigated land in developing countries suffers from varying

degrees of salinisation.

Several countries are already improving agriculture water use through administrative reform policies, investment in irrigation management and irrigation rehabilitation. But the report recommends that countries must do more than encourage innovations in water-saving technologies: they must also establish a structure of pricing incentives, regulations, permits, restrictions and penalties to encourage the effi-

cient use of water. The developing world needs irrigated agriculture to increase incomes, improve production and ensure food security into the next century, according to the FAO.

The State of Food and Agriculture 1993 analyses issues that could have major impacts on global food and agriculture policies. It stresses that a worldwide economic recovery is needed to stimulate agricultural growth and trade and predicts some improvement in agricultural commodity prices during 1994, following the downward slide of the last 10

The report also looks at opportunities to produce a wider range of better quality agricultural products through biotechnology. The report warns, however, that inadequare distribution of biotechnology could aggravate socio-economic imbalances. Developing countries and poorer farmers face difficulties in absorbing new technologies, while technological substitutes for agricultural products, like artificial vanilla, may jeopardise exports from developing countries.

In a region-by-region review, the report produced these findings:

- In Asia, while improved seed and fertiliser technology. complemented with a vast expansion in irrigation facilities. removed the spectre of hunger from many Asian countries, in some cases, it was leading to environmental degradation

- In Latin America, currency overvaulation was a major influence behind the weakness in agricultural exports. Added to that was the dramatic fall of commodity prices, affecting several of the main export products of the region.

- In Central and Eastern Europe, reform and the uncertainty surrounding privatisation and property rights continued to influence the region's agricultural production nega-

- Africa was still the continent most seriously affected by food shortages, requiring exceptional emergency assistance. Food security has been a major preoccupation in the region.

In a detailed analysis of the situation in Africa, the report highlighted some bright developments, including a prog-ramme launched by Senegal that aims to achieve 80 per cent self-sufficiency in food.

However, the report said, about 20 per cent of the people in the developing world, some 780 million, are chronically undernourished, consuming too little food to meet even minimal energy needs. Approximately 192 million children under five years of age suffer from acute or chronic protein-energy malnutrition."

The report also notes that there have been a number of impressive achievements in food availability over the last few decades. It states that the number of people in developing regions suffering from chronic malnutrition has declined consistently, from 36 per cent to 20 per cent, even though the world population has increased.

The FAO publishes The State of Food and Agriculture each year as part of its continuing effort to focus world attention on the major issues constraining increased agricultural production and more equitable distribution of the food supply.

### Arafat, Peres seek deal

with Mr. Peres. Israel had warned that Mr. Peres would not travel to Cairo without an assurance of a meeting with the PLO chair-

"It depends on the willingess of the Palestinians to come to Cairo, as was agreed in said Mr. Rabin on Davos." Israeli radio.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa salvaged the meeting by contacting both Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat by telephone late Sunday, the PLO representative in Cairo, Said Kamal, told reporters.

Israel and the PLO are to try to iron out differences which have held up implementation of their Sept. 13 autonomy accord. Under the deal, Israeli troops were to have started pulling out of Gaza and Jericho

on December 13. age of non-trade sectors of The main stumbling-blocks in the negotiations have been the control of crossing points ly basic foodstuff, medicine from the the autonomous areas into Egypt and Jordan, and security measures for Jewish

In essence the sales will settlers in Gaza. replace a consumption tax which took effect in 1992, But Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat agreed in Davos that Israel and proponents of the draft would grant autonomy to ablaw say that there would not be any immediate price rises in the market since the levy was not an addition. But businessmen are not

out 55 square kilometres of land around Jericho, according to the Israeli press.

Mr. Kamal said the Palestinians "want to end the deconvinced, and Parliament

"We want to end the vicious circle in which the negotiations are being held, to be able to draft all the clauses of the

accord.' Nabil Shaath, the PLO's chief autonomy negotiator, said the Israelis had made statements apparently renouncing what was achieved in Davos.

"The 'miracles' of Mr. Rabin are blocking the way," Dr. Shaath told AFP, referring to the prime minister's comments last week that it would take a miracle to have a final accord this week.

Mr. Rabin has said it needs three or four more weeks, while Mr. Arafat has said he would be ready to sign an

accord in Cairo. "The PLO hopes that we will reach an accord based on what was achieved at Davos,' said Dr. Shaath. "But the Israelis have gone back on what was achieved at the Davos talks, when the two sides were close to an accord."

The PLO on Sunday appealed to the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace initiative launched in 1991, to "press-ure" Israel into "rapidly" withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

## 4 Israeli soldiers killed

the first in South Lebanon since Dec. 10, when an officer was killed after his tank was hit by a rocket.

Hizbollah said in a statement broadcast by its radio station that its fighters carried out the ambush in rememberance of their leader, Sheikh Abbas Musawi, killed Feb. 16, 1992, in an Israeli helicopter raid. Another Hizbollah figure, Sheikh Raghed Harb, a fiery anti-Israeli resistance leader and preacher, was assassinated in the village of Jibsheet Feb.

gion at the time. The guerrillas also carried out two other bomb attacks Monday on patrols from the

16, 1984. Hizbollah blamed the

Israelis, who occupied the re-

Israeli army and its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA), militia apparently causing no casualties.

Israeli forces and the SLA retaliated by pounding guerrilla positions with Howitzers.

By late afternoon, the Israelis had fired more than 200 artillery and tank rounds, and the guerrillas had unleashed about 50 Katyusha rockets and scores of mortar rounds, the sources said.

In terms of weapons deployed and the area engulfed in fire, Monday's violence was the worst in seven months. At least 148 people were killed and 500 wounded in a weeklong Israeli air, sea and land

Save water ... every drop counts

### -Enzyme **How Drug Works How Tuberculosis** The drug appears to bind to the **May Develop** enzyme keeping it from functioning. The bacterium **Drug Resistance** dies when its coating fails. Two Theories of Resistance Mutation If the gene building mutates and plocks produces an attered enzyme. Enzyme the drug will not bind to the enzyme **Drug Saturation** If too much of the **Assembling** enzyme is **Waxy Coat** produced the in research on how a drug Thingyme is drug :s works against tuberculosis. pereved to scientists have found a gene assemble that directs production of an Duraing blocks of enzyme involved in building a murche acid into sce : al structura: laye!

## A breakthrough on tuberculosis

By Lawrence K. Altman

NEW YORK — Tuberculosis researchers have made a laboratory discovery that they say paves the way for the development of new and more powerful drugs against the infectious disease, which has become a growing public health threat throughout the world.

As strains of the tubercle bacillus have become resistant to the drugs that have long controlled the infection, tuberculosis has once again become a deadly disease in the United States, as well as in less developed countries.

Only a few years ago, the U.S. government set the year 2010 as the date for eliminating tuberculosis from the country. But now federal health officials say the disease is out of control in several areas, including New York City, where it has become a major problem in hospitals and homeless shelters and among people who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes the disease, has become resistant to as many as seven drugs.

The resurgence of tuberculoresearch, reported in the journal Science by researchers from New York and New Zea-

The discovery seems to explain how isoniazid, a key antituberculosis drug, kills the tubercle bacillus. Even though isoniazid has been one of the main weapons in the control of tuberculosis since 1952, scientists have never understood how it works.

Doctors prescribe isoniazid to prevent full-fledged disease in people who have recently shown evidence of infection in a tuberculin skin test and to treat the disease. But with the rise of new cases of drugresistant tuberculosis, experts are no longer certain about its effectiveness.

The new study reports on the discovery of a gene in M. tuberculosis called inhA, for isonicotinic acid hydrazide. The gene directs the production of an enzyme that the researchers suspect helps chain lipids to each other. They believe isoniazid works by targeting the enzyme and interfering with the lipids to kill the bac-

One of the main goals is to use the discovery of the gene to find new drugs to overcome the currently drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis. As a crucial step in pursuit of that goal, the researchers are in the process of crystallising the enzyme in the laboratory to see its three-dimensional struc-

The researchers also are exploring the possibility of using the crystallised enzyme to develop drugs against a bacterial cousin of tuberculosis known as M. avium. It produces a common problem among peo-ple with AIDS that is difficult to treat.

"By identifying the target

enzyme, we now have the knowledge we need to overcome resistance to this drug, said Dr. William R. Jacobs Jr., the head of the New York research team and a researcher at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. "The idea is that by understanding this protein, the target, we should be able to begin to make drugs that will substitute for isoniazid and be better.

Another dividend of the new findings might be the development of more rapid tests to

detect drug-resistant tubercuthe head of a laboratory in losis, Dr. Jacobs said. He said New Zealand. His team's research in Upper Hut, New his team still had an incomplete picture of precisely how Zealand, is focused on M. isoniazid kills the tubercle bovis, an important infection bacillus, but it has hypotheof cattle. sized how the microbe might Both teams identified a develop resistance to isoniazid. mutation in the inhA gene that This could occur either produced drug resistance. The through a mutation that blocks researchers used different isoniazid from binding to it or

through the manufacture of

large amounts of the enzyme,

which would nullify isoniazid's

effect. "If we understand ex-

actly how isoniazid binds, we

Jacobs's team began collabor-

ating with Dr. Paul Atkinson,

bacterium.

should be able to design drugs That was strong but only partial proof that they had that would bind and kill the found the target for isoniazid In the research that led to the discovery of the gene, Dr.

and that it was the enzyme produced by inhA. The next step is to crystallise

the enzyme, thereby providing

members of the mycobacter-

ium family. The New York

team identified the mutation in

M. smegmatis and the New

Zealand group found it in M.

a three-dimensional picture of the protein. "With that, you can begin to see how the isoniazid actually binds to the molecule and how it works, Dr. Jacobs said.

Dr. Jacobs said his team could not undertake such crystallisation studies until it had found the target. "Before this we did not know what to crystallise," he said. "Now we know this is the protein we want to do the crystal structure

Dr. Jacobs also said that he has found hints that inhA might have implications beyond tuberculosis and he speculated that the discovery might open up the way to make a whole new class of broad-spectrum antibiotics" ---New York Times.



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# Japan's current account surplus jumps 11.7% to record \$131b

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan director of research at the fi--- struggled with a new embar-=: Tassment of riches on Monday, announcing an 11.7 per cent cap in its current-account sur-

<sup>3</sup> plus to a record \$131 billion last year as talks were to re-Sume in Washington on U.S.-Japanese trade problems.

The gigantic surplus announced by the finance ministry surpassed the previous all-time high of \$118 bil-tion in 1992. The imbalance included a record \$141 billion surplus in merchandise trade, up 6.9 per cent, in some of the most sensitive areas under aegotiation in Washington, as I well as the smallest deficit in iswisible trade in 20 years.

:: The invisible trade deficit, measuring a country's trade in services such as tourism and hipping along with investment income and other items, shrank 61.6 per cent from a vear earlier to \$3.9 billion.

In yen terms, however, apan's current account sur-- three years, shrinking from 4.9 trillion yen to 14.6 trillion en to reflect the impact of the en's sharp appreciation last

"The trend has been changing," said Hiroshi Uchimura. nance ministry's International Finance Bureau. "As far as we can see from recent figures, the scale of the surplus has continued to shrink.

The ministry said the record trade surplus was fuelled by brisk exports of semiconductors, automotive parts and ships along with the reduced value of Japanese imports of crude oil. Overall exports climbed 6.2 per cent to \$351 billion while imports advanced 5.7 per cent to \$210 billion.

Negotiators were to launch a fresh effort in Washington Monday aimed at reaching agreement on trade ahead of a summit there on Friday between President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

The stumbling block lies on "numerical targets" demanded by the United States for opening Japan's markets in key sectors, such as automotive trade, which accounts for roughly half of Japan's \$50 billion surplus on trade with the United States. U.S. Trade Representative

Mickey Kantor, frustrated by poor progress last week, issued a veiled warning, saying the United States had "other opfor dealing with lopsided trade. The sharply smaller invisible

trade deficit, which helped to inflate the current account imbalance as much as the surplus in merchandise trade, mainly reflected increased inflows of investment income.

Such inflows rose 14 per cent to more than \$41 billion, the ministry said. Inflows of interest and divided income advanced 15 per cent from a year earlier to almost \$35 billion while inflows of income from direct investments abroad climbed nine per cent to more than \$6 billion.

A Bank of Japan official said higher income from dividend payments was the main factor behind the increase. Other factors were income from interest-rate swaps along with interest on loans made by Japanese banks abroad, he

Japan's travel deficit was fractionally higher at \$23.3 bilfion while the transport deficit was up 14 per cent at \$11.4 billion, mainly as a result of reduced income from freight transactions which was more

The balance-of-payments figures also showed that Japanese investors bought a record \$3.5 billion worth of foreign stocks in December. boosting net purchases in 1993 to a four-year high of \$15.3 billion.

The heavy buying, which helped boost long-term capital outflows almost threefold to \$78.1 billion last year, reflected growing Japanese interest in booming stock mar-kets, the central bank official

Another major factor boosting capital outflows was net sales of Japanese securities by foreign investors which hit a record \$11.1 billion reflecting heavy redemptions of bonds issued abroad in the late 1980s.

In December alone, the current account surplus was up 9.3 per cent at \$12.6 billion. The trade surplus alone expanded 8.7 per cent to \$14.1 billion with exports leaping 6.1 per cent to \$31.7 billion while imports climbed a slower 4.2 per cent to \$17.6 billion.

The invisible trade deficit for the month was \$1.2 billion, up 32 per cent. The deficit in the long-term capital account ballooned to \$9.8 billion, more than five times higher than December the previous year.

# UAE '94 budget totals \$4.79 billion

ited Arab Emirates (UAE) cabinet Monday approved a 1994 budget that would cut spending by one per cent and slightly reduced the federal deficit, the official Emirates news agency WAM reported.

It said 1994 spending by the UAE federal government was budgeted at 17.61 billion dirhams (\$4.97 billion) down from 17.63 billion dirhams (\$4.8 billion) in 1993. WAM said the cabinet

approved revenues of 16.2 billion dirhams (\$4.4 billion) up slightly from 15.9 billion dirhams (\$4.3 billion) in 1993.

The 1994 deficit dropped by 322.6 million dirhams (\$87.9 million) to 1.4 billion dirhams

(\$381.5 million) from 1.7 billion dirhams (\$463.3 million) in 1993.

WAM said the Federal National Council (FNC) will discuss the budget Tuesday before it is presented to the Supreme National Council of the rulers of the UAE's seven emi-

WAM said the FNC, an appointed consultative council. will receive 15 million dirhams (\$4 million) and the Emirates University budget will be 533 million dirhams (\$145 million). Other technical and training institutes will receive about 149 million dirhams (\$40 million).

The UAE last year set up its first Federal Environmental Agency which has a 1994 budget of five million dirhams (\$1.4 million).

UAE minister of finance and industry Ahmad Humaid Al Tayer said last month that the UAE was recalculating proposed expenditure because of low oil prices in 1993, when the Arab Gulf oil exporter had based its budget on a barrel of oil costing \$16.

Sheikh Tayer said the UAE bases its budget on how much the UAE's main oil producing emirates. Abu Dhabi and Dubai, earn from crude exports. He did not give a specific price per barrel on which the 1994 budget was based.

There has been no significant change in federal spending for several years in the seven-state UAE because of the reluctance of wealthier members Abu Dhabi and Dubai to increase contributions at a time when the poorer UAE emirates continue to pay

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nothing towards federal costs of Catal Ai The ministry has urged federal ministries to bold down their spending estimates for the year which started on Jan. I because of low oil prices. The budget will be backdated to the beginning of the year.

Abu Dhabi, which produces most of the UAE's 2.161 million barrels per day of crude, is believed to contribute about 80 per cent of the budget and the rest is provided by Dubai and income from indirect taxes and

GDP by end-1995.

policy credibility.

Progress in cutting the

budget deficit might be slow

despite plans to elimitate the

structural deficit over five

years through spending cuts totalling 80 billion kronor

(nearly \$10 billion), the OECD

said, arguing the ase for im-

mediate cuts to strengthen

It also endorsed the central

### OECD urges Sweden to slash public outlays, cut 'welfare state' costs a surplus of 2.7 per cent of But a rebound in export-

PARIS (AFP) - Sweden is headed for a modest export-led recovery from its worst recession since the 1930s but must act urgently to curb balooning public deficits and jobless rates and reform its costly "cradleto-crave" welfare system, the OECD said Monday.

With public spending running at over 70 per cent of GDP and snowballing public debt boosting structural deficits, the onus must be on cutting outlays. And Sweden's extensive welfare system "can not escape fundamental reform," it said.

The limits of sound financing of welfare spending have been surpassed and "the country cannot simply continue as if nothing has happened." The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its latest sur-

vey of the Swedish economy. The survey set unemployment, taking in people benefitting from labour market schemes, at an "unacceptable high" rate of 13 per cent and put the 1993 general government deficit at a towering 14 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The combination of these two factors left no easy choices, the report said. A "delicate balance" must be

ı reform

struck between financial restraint and support for demand, and between budgetary stringency and monetary easing.

But two issues must be tack-

led with "a great sense of urgency" - making timely inroads into high unemployment before it becomes entrenched" and reining in government spending "before the rapidly rising public debt gets out of hand.

The OECD traced the crisis to "misguided policies in the 1980s, when financial der gulation preceed a long overdue tax reform, creating a "bubble economy" effect.

Since monetary policy was geared to exchange-rate party, no room was left for interest rates hikes to combat overheating caused by loan-financed consumption and speculative investment.

When recession began in 1991, moving the budget from surplus into growing deficit, the krona came under pressure and had to be floated by November 1992. The report

Market-share gains from a 23 per cent drop in the krona's value since then, and a gradual upturn in key European export markets should now enable the economy to pull out of the doldrums.

oriented sectors may be accompanied by continued weak domestic demand, with fiscal tightening restraining real income growth and the poor jobs outlook and debt consolidation damping household spending this year. The OECD foresaw a slow

upturn starting with 1994 growth of 1.5 per cent and a 1995 pick-up at 2.2 per cent, both in 1991 and 1992 and by another 2.7 per cent last year.

But it said officially recorded unemployment, sharply up from two per cent of the labour force in 1990 to about eight per cent last year, could rise further to nearly nine per cent before beginning to fall slowly.

A few bright spots in the picture included progress in curbing inflation and a likely

rise in the current account

from rough balance in 1993 to

bank's two per cent inflation target and its caution in teducing short-term interest rates. Structural policies would be

important for restoring economic stability, the OECD said, urging steps to shake up labour markets and remove obstacles to wage flexibility. Preventing high unemploy-

ment from becoming persistent. was "an important end in itself' but also a means of budget deficit-reduction

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 1994. By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you will have kept promises made associates. Take no risks with your well established reputation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A fine day to get busy making improvements to surroundings, getting car cleaned and in good ng order, clothing cleaned, TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Take the time this morning to visit barber or beauty shop so that you are at your best meeting others for any creative express

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Thoughts of home and family should be uppermost in your mind now, though you may find it necessary to be in the world of business for your success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't waste a moment of this fine day's aspects in making and keeping business appointments, getting shopping done, buying, selling also.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You must make a good impression upon higher-ups and kin where the handling of financers is concerned now, no matter what you position or profession in life may

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take the health and beauty treatments you like so that you are at your best and can then keep those important appointments which are special to

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Since you want things to be in order and fine condition, this is a good day to absent

yourself from the social whirl and

carry on earnestly with tasks in SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be sure you listen attentively to the suggestions now being given you by a well-informed acquaintance, since they will bring you: personal and business goals closer by following

them quickly. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you are most conscientious in handling any civic or business affairs, you can now increase prestige appreci-

ably. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Search through your paper and every other available source for the information you

require that will help you to start an upswing in all of your affairs. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for more efficient systems of operating and keeping books so that you make

a greater profit and have item and detail of taxes, insurance, accounts at your fingertips.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your partners have the planetary force on their side today, so be sure you ally yourself with them fully in order to gain

### VASHINGTON (AFP) estimate of 3.3 per cent. 6.7 per cent in January, a rise provides cash for highway con-Spending for fiscal 1995, bestruction and an educational of 0.3 per cent from a month ginning Oct. 1, is forecast at boost for the country's poorest \$1.52 trillion, with revenue forecast at \$1.34 trillion.

Omani banks press on with mergers in

The U.S. government released Monday a tight \$1.52 trillion budget for 1995, aimed at reducing the budget deficit to \$176 billion, its lowest level in

The budget is based on projected economic growth of 2.7 per cent in fiscal 1995, down from three per cent this year, with inflation forecast at 3.2 per cent, up from three per cent this year, according to the figures released Monday.

Unemployment is forecast to all to six per cent in 1995 from 5.4 per cent this year.

The figures released Monday revised the 1994 inflation Sorecast down from an earlier

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Two

more Omani banks are plan-

ning to merge to denent from

attractive incentives offered by

the central bank to encourage

nmergers as part of overall eco-

nomic reforms in the oil-rich

The Oman Arab Bank

(OAB) and the Oman-Euro-

pean Bank (OEB) have been

involved in negotiations for merger, which will be the third

in Oman since the central bank

innounced the incentives three

vears ago, bankers have said.

"We are holding negotia-

tions but they are still in their initial stages." OAB General Manager Abdul Qadir Askalan

Culf state.

The defence budget edges

up from \$260.9 billion to \$263.7 billion, although the money will be eaten up by a pay hike for the military and personnel will be cut seven per

But money is switched into jobs, recognising that employthe rest of the economic re-

ment is still dragging behind

The budget for fiscal 1995, beginning Oct. 1, cuts 115 federal programmes, for a sav-

ing of some \$3.25 billion, but

told AFP by telephone from

The capitals of both bank:

already meet the requirements

set by the central bank but the

merger is in line with the gov-

ernment policy to cut the num-

ber of banks and strengthen

the banking sector," he

and 12 foreign units before

mergers were launched and the

central bank issued instruc-

tions for raising their capital to

at least 10 million Omani riyals (\$26 million).

the Bank of Muscat with Al

Ahli Bank and the Oman

The first mergers involved

Oman had 11 national banks

pointed out.

children.

And it will take the deficit down to \$176.1 billion, under a \$500 billion deficit reduction plan put forward by President Bill Clinton last year. That is \$126 billion less than

Mr. Clinton forecast a year ago, and the best deficit showing since 1989, when it stood at \$152.5 billion.

While the deficit reduction plan has generally been good news for the economy, pushing down interest rates and encouraging investment, unemployment remains a problem. The U.S. jobless rate was

Commercial Bank with the

Omani Al Masraf institutions.

All of them merged to ensure

their capital meet central bank

requirements and to raise their

adequacy in line with guidel-

lines by the Bank for Interna-

Central bank incentives for

merging banks include a de-posit of 10 million riyals (\$26

million) for 10 years with an interest rate of three per cent

and exemption of taxes on

Officials have said they

wanted to halve the number of

banks on the grounds the local

"Mergers will strengthen the

market is relatively small.

profits for five years.

tional Settlement (BIS).

earlier although the Labour Department said this was largely due to the introduction of a new method of calculation, and that under the new system the figure was down.

The budget includes some \$400 million extra to help train workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign competition, but another programme aimed at helping disadvantaged young people find a first job has been cut.

The defence budget is spared the draconian cuts of last year, when its budget was trimmed by \$12 billion.

### banking sector as they will boost the financial position of have not yet entered into debanks and cut competition in tails, but we might raise the the local market," said Mansur capital later," he said. Al Zakwani, banking chief at

ign competition. Mr. Askalan, whose bank is owned by the Jordanian Arab Bank and the Omani International Company for Development and Investment, said merging with OEB could give birth to a bank with a capital of 20 million riyals (\$52 million) as the two have a capital of \$26

the Omani Chamber of Com-,

merce and Industry. "This will

also enable banks to face fore-

million each. "We do not want to talk about the situation now as we Other Gulf states are urging

beir banks to merge or raise Meir capital to strenghten their financial position and meet the eight per cent level set by BIS as a floor for capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholders equity and assets. The BIS move, which took effect in January, is intended to ensure banks worldwide have enough funds to face a financial crisis.

Most of them ' ave reported positive results of their measures, which included stronger intervention in banks, regular

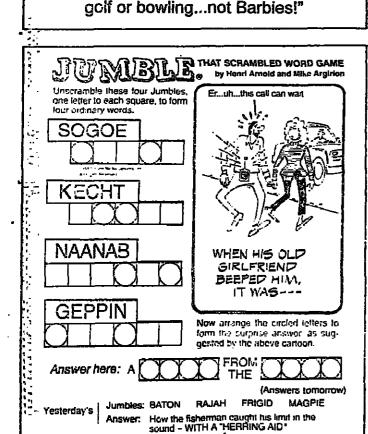
sheets and incentives to merg-. units. In the United Arab Emirates, officials said the adequacy of the country's 47 banks had exceeded 10 per

inspection of their balance

The banking measures in Oman run parallel with largescale reforms to revive the economy and lessen reliance on unstable oil earnings.

The reforms include privatisations, frecing interest rates on loans, new incentives to investors, opening up the stock market, and upgrading the infrastructure to attract foreign capital.

# the better half. By Glasbergen "\Vhen the marriage counselor told us to play together more she meant



### Peanuts







## **Andy Capp**





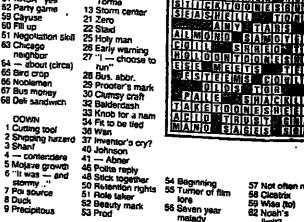




### Mutt'n'Jeff



# THE Daily Crossword by Gerstd R. Ferguson AGNUSS 1 Elvis — Presley 5 Puma and lymx 9 Froth 14 Floor model 15 Cain raiser 16 Word to your sweete 17 Fervor 18 Special trestment 19 Special treatment 19 Zota 20 Theatergoers' choice 23 Diving bird 24 Cal. fort 25 Forearm bone 29 Hansorn 31 Ms James 35 From one to another 38 Seek office 39 Supreme Cour decision 42 Sibling abor. 43 "The — of Hoffman" 44 More mature 45 Batty preceder 47 Acquire 48 Stringy stalk 49 Whitney 51 NASA "yes" 52 Party 93me Yesterday's Prizzle Solved: 10 Hair dressing 11 Military group 12 Brooks and Torme 13 Storm center 51 NASA "yee" 52 Party game 52 Party game 59 Cayuse 60 Fill up 61 Negotiation Skill 63 Chicago neighbor 64 — about (circa) 65 Bird crop 66 Noblemen 67 Bus money 68 Deli sandwich



## AY, FEBRUARY, nc

ven-state UAE he Dembers Abu Discontinuerons ambers And Die 1 AE emirates combined thing towards ide The ministry by Jeral ministres length ierai ministrica la sir spending cana.

year which stand. ecause of low of the deep will be backles dget will be battle ginning of the least of the UAEstle n barrels per day of lieved to contribute r cent of the budge, it is provided by be come from indired.

Surplus of 2.7 pg, OP by end-1905 Progress in cuts
dget deficit might
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uctural deficit
are through ars through spens early \$10 billion, by d. arguing the act diate cuts to licy credibility it also endorsed nk's two per cent get and its causing short-term intens Structural polices portant for testons, c stability, the Ord ring steps to shake to irkets and removed wage flexibility. Preventing high 🛖 nt from becoming at "ал ітропаці 🙀 out £150 a 📭 dget deficit-reduct

OP3 FEBRUARY 8, 198 Carroli Righter Forti ointments which are RA: (September De

22) Since you wante in order and fine on

**Financial** 

is a good day in rself from the social w acon earnestly with t ORPIO (October! vernber 21) Besureps antively to the sage a peine ainen ion pis ormed acquaintable v will bring you pert iness goals closer h

m quickly GITTARIUS: (Nors# December 21) If we # scientious in had c or business affair. increase preme #

PRICORN: December uary 20; Search throph er and every other is ree for the information aire that will help tolk spswing in all of rosts UARIUS: (January 1 ruary 19) Look for most it systems of operated ping books so that sale reater profit and use: detail of taxes me punts at your insulp CES: (Februar) 3/10# Your pariners but ietary force on their so be sure you ally them fully in order 8;

## **Qatar Airways will** not buy planes now

DUBAI (R) - Qatar's new airline, Qatar Airways, has no plans to buy planes in the near future and would only lease passenger aircraft for now, the company's chief executive was quoted as saying. The Qatari News Agency quoted Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Bin Jabr Al Thani as saying the airline, which started its first flights to the United Arab Emirates on Jan. 20, has leased two passenger planes, one from Kuwait Airways and the other from Airbus. "He (Sheikh Hamad) said there is no intention to buy new planes for the time being, but only to lease them from other companies." the agency said. "There are other planes that will join Qatar Airways in March," it added. Qatar along with the governments of Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Oman jointly own the regional airline Gulf Air. But over the past year both Qatar and Oman have launched separate airlines. Sheikh Hamad said Qatar Airways plans to start services soon to other Arab and international destinations.

> amman financial market HOULING BANK CENTED ANDLAY - SENGLISANI TELEPHONE: 640170 / 643170 ARKET SHARE PRICE LIST POR MONDAY 07/07/1994



|  |  |  |                         | 9                        |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| erant 's Kape  | ADT DATE                                       | PREV.<br>CLOSING<br>PRICE                          | OFEN:NG<br>FN:CZ        | CL05:86<br>PR:CE         |
|  | -  |  |                         |                          |
| as bask<br>Saas sational bask  | 84,219<br>93 544                               | 7.060  | 19:.500                 | 191.500                  |
| ING ANGLAN BANK  | 450  | 46.000   | 45.000                  | 45 000                   |
| UT OF BORDAY   | 29.227   | 6.800  | €.865                   | 4.750                    |
| THE EAST INVESTMENT BANK,<br>DISTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK   | 76.48;   | 7.100  | 2.090                   | 2.095                    |
| MISTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK<br>I MOUSTMG BANK  | 56.686   | 3.030  | 3.010                   | 2.983                    |
| anam mysjatt SANM  | 197,360  |  |                         |                          |
| egan gulf base   | 152,845  | 2.226  | 2.240                   | 2.190                    |
| AD JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK  | 18,279   | 4.760  | 4.310                   | 4.230                    |
| ROAM CULF BANK  AB JORGAN INVESTMENT BANG  COMMISSIANIC BANK  LANIC 190. HOUSE  INCIS BANK  ROAM INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK  INCIS BANK  IN ELANL SAVINGA HYPESTMENT FOR MODSING  HAN BANK FOR LIVESTMENT FOR MODSING  HAN BANK FOR COMPOUNTION JORGAN  HANGELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.  ROAM INSTRUMENCE  ROAM JARATA INSURANCE  ROAM PREPRIN INSURANCE  ROAM PREPRIN INSURANCE  | 3,255<br>474.018                               | 4.600  | 4.495                   | 4.240                    |
| SINESS BANK  | ::,000   | 6.500  | 4.405                   | 4.400                    |
| RUAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK   | 77,420   | 1.600  | 3.660                   | 7.400                    |
| IT CLMAL SAVINGALINVESTMENT FOR MODELING   | 2,266  | 4.760  | 4.6.0                   | 4.600                    |
| MAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT<br>AN HANKING CORPORATION/AMENAN   | 120,771  | 760  | 1.960                   | 1.970<br>4.920           |
| CAMELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.   | 35.20  | 2.400  | 2.456                   | 2.462                    |
| real 'Heyrance   | 23,503   | 3.950  | 3.9.0                   | 3.950                    |
| neral, arabia irsurance  | 28,718   | J. 760   | 3.425                   | 3.620                    |
| RIAN FRANCH INGURANCE  | 7,35L  | 3.710  | 1.100                   | 3.000                    |
| NYEFAN INDURANA<br>MININY ELECTRIC PONER   | 53.53E<br>562.66                               | 2.420  | 2.426                   | 2.750                    |
| BIS LIGHTER BLECTRICITY  | 4.735  | 1.340  | 1,350                   | 1.350                    |
| MAAR MATICUAL SHIPPING LINES   | 4,274  | 2.430  | 2.396                   | 2.310                    |
| MEAN TOURISK & SPA COMPLEX   | 7.637  | 0.823  | 0.000                   | 0.430                    |
| TIONAL PURTFULIO ERCUPITIES  | 44,537<br>:18.821                              | 4.320  | 4.335                   | 4.325                    |
| TAR ESTREPLISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING   | 182  | 0.900  | 0.9:0                   | 0.5:0                    |
| NEFRAL ARRETA TRAVERANCE ROBM PRESENT INCURRANCE (IVEENAL TRAUBANCE (I | 20,639   | 1.070  |                         | 1.125                    |
| REAM PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'S<br>STED HISDLE EAST & CONGRESSEE HOTELS   | 2  | 13.800   | 13.630                  | 13.559                   |
| HTED HITCH EAST & COMMODER HOTELS<br>AB LETER, FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION  | 59.233   | 2.760  | 2.280                   | 2.260<br>3.550           |
| PARKETE COMPT. MATERIAL MARKETACTURING   | ,352   | 1.600  | 3.790                   | 3.330<br>· A20           |
| L JORDAN CENENT PACTORIES  | 58,510   | 3.090  | 3.330                   | 3.120                    |
| SOAN PETROLEUM ASPIPARY  | :5.:08   | 10.470   | 10.450                  | 1.620<br>1.120<br>20.450 |
| MRAN TANKING   | 8.333  | 7.450  | 7.550                   | 7.830                    |
| E INDUSTRIAL CONSERCIAL & ACRICULTURAL DE JORGAN PURSTED MILLS   | 0.755  | 7.300  | 7.300                   | 1.200                    |
| ne manacettical manufacturisc  | 142.117  | 7.990  | 8.050                   | 8.010                    |
| ADAM CEMANIC INDUSTRIES  | 3,535  | 7.990  | 6.450                   | 5.4GD                    |
| PROAM BAINT  | 1,392  | 3.150  | 3.110                   | 3.160                    |
| KE JOHDAN PIPES HAMUFACTURING  | 12,049   | 4.299  | 4.280                   | 4.290                    |
| MINN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES   | 8.744  | 3.150<br>4.299<br>4.600<br>2.840<br>2.350<br>0.370 | 4.580                   | 4.580                    |
| PINING E VERVING   | 14.623   | 2.550  | 2.330                   | 2.810                    |
| MOAN GLASS INCOSTRIZS  | 2,375  | 0.170  | 0.370                   | 0.380                    |
| F NI DAKA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT   | 14,673<br>12,375<br>127,261<br>3,578<br>42,420 | 15.950   | 16.100                  | 15.920                   |
| AB INVESTMENT & INTROVATIONAL TRACE  | 3,578  | 2.350  | 2.360                   | 2.390                    |
| AN ALUMINIUM IMDUSTRY<br>LAB PAPER COMVERTING & TRADING  | 92,420   | 1,140  | 10.100                  | 1,540                    |
| NOAN HEDICAL CORPORATION   | 23.563   | 0.450  | 0-450                   | 0.470                    |
| ITIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY   | 2,641  | 5.300<br>3.440<br>7.560<br>1.190                   | 6.330                   | 5.279                    |
| TERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL IPPOSTRIES   | 13,759   | 3.440  | 3,470                   | 3.180                    |
| :Vzrsal chemical ;#Dustries<br>Boaf i#Dustries & Match/Jimco   | 1,885  | 7.560  | 7.550                   | 7.506                    |
| ROAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY   | 17,942   | 0.410  | 0.400                   | 0.410                    |
| TIGHT CARLE & WINE HANDFACTURING   | 19,980   | 7.480  | 7.400                   | 7.400                    |
| POAN SULPRO-CHEMICALS  | 20,437   | 7.480<br>3.350<br>3.290                            | 3.320                   | 3.300                    |
| AS CERTER FOR PHARM, & CHENCICALS  | 3,284  | 3.290  | 3.290                   | 3.260                    |
| REAL KUNAIT CO. FOR ACRI. & 7000 PROD.   | 6,889  | 1.250  | 3.290<br>1.230<br>2.380 | 1.240                    |
| LAEMSYT MODERN TROOSLYTE?<br>ALMEN TEATERLE  | 4,522<br>21,584                                | 5.840  | 2.380<br>1.840          | 2.380<br>5.820           |
| AAFD TOTAL .   | 2,380,146                                      |  | A                       | <u> </u>                 |
|  |  |  |                         |                          |

| ١ | Markets        | Cairo Amm |        | k (    |                |  |  |  |
|---|----------------|-----------|--------|--------|----------------|--|--|--|
|   | Farocurrency I |           |        |        | Deta: 7/2/1994 |  |  |  |
| ļ | Currency       | 1 MT      | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS        |  |  |  |
|   | U.S. Dollar    | 3.20      | 3.38   | 3.50   | 3.85           |  |  |  |
|   | Sterling Pound | 5.31      | 5.25   | 5.25   | 5.18           |  |  |  |
|   | Deutsche Mark  | 5.93      | 5.75   | 5.50   | 5.25           |  |  |  |
| ١ | Suise Franc    | 1         | 7 02   | 3.57   | 3 40           |  |  |  |

Jordan Times

| U.S. Dollar            | 3.20 | 3.38 | 3.50 | 3.85 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Sterling Pound         | 5.31 | 5.25 | 5.25 | 5.18 |
| Deutsche Mark          | 5.93 | 5.75 | 5.50 | 5.25 |
| Swiss Franc            | 4.12 | 3.93 | 3.81 | 3.62 |
| French Franc           | 6.40 | 6.18 | 6.00 | 5.50 |
| Japanese Yen           | 2.25 | 2.18 | 2.15 | 2.12 |
| European Currency Unit | 6.44 | 6.28 | 6.06 | 5.65 |

| Central | Bank | of | Jordan | Exchange Rate | Bulletin |          |
|---------|------|----|--------|---------------|----------|----------|
|         |      |    |        |               |          | 7/2/1994 |

|                | Date: 7/2/199- |        |  |
|----------------|----------------|--------|--|
| Сигтевсу       | Bld            | Offer  |  |
| (I.S. Dollar   | 0.7050         | 0.7070 |  |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0421         | 1.0473 |  |
| Deutsche Mark  | 0.3999         | 0.4019 |  |
| Swiss Franc    | 0.4788         | 0.4812 |  |
| French Franc   | 0.1180         | 0.1186 |  |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.6466         | 0.5498 |  |
| Dulch Guilder  | 0.3569         | 0.3587 |  |
| Swedish Krona  | *****          | *****  |  |
| Italian Lira   | 0.0415         | 0.0417 |  |
| Belgian Franc  | *****          | 20044  |  |

| Other Currencies | Date: 7/2/1994 |          |  |
|------------------|----------------|----------|--|
| Currency         | Bid            | Offer    |  |
| Babraini Dinar   | 1.8510         | 1.8660   |  |
| Lebanese Lira    | 0.040750       | 0.041785 |  |
| Saudt Riyal      | 0.1877         | 0.1885   |  |
| Kuwaiti Dinar    | 2.3400         | 2.3600   |  |
| Qatari Riyal     | 0.1914         | 0.1923   |  |
| Egyptian Pound   | 1.2150         | 0.2200   |  |
| Ombal Riyal      | 1.8080         | 1.8240_  |  |
| UAE Dirham       | 0.1914         | 0.1923   |  |
| Greek Drachma    | 0.2735         | 0.3185   |  |
| Cypriot Pound    | 1.3255         | 1.3655   |  |

| Precious Metals |        |       | Date: 7/2/1994 |        |       |
|-----------------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|
| Metal           | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal          | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
| Gold            | 383.75 | 7.55  | Silver         | 5.33   | 0.120 |

UND Per NIG Encopean Opening on 8:00 a.m. GMT

| Currency              | New York<br>Close<br>11mm 4/2/1994 | Tokyo<br>Clese<br>Par 7/2/1994 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sterling Pound        | 1.4775                             | 1.4796                         |
| Deutsche Mark         | 1.7610                             | 1.7612                         |
| Swiss Franc           | 1,4725                             | 1.4712                         |
| French Franc          | 5.9610                             | 5.9022**                       |
| Japanese Yen          | 109.25                             | 108.90                         |
| European Current Unit | 1.1060                             | 1.1070**                       |

## 'Waiting mode' slows down trading at AFM By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter AMMAN — Trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) has thinned down since the beginning of this week, with the weekly volume not expected to exceed JD 12 million compared with the JD 20

million registered last week, dealers said Monday. "Investors are in a waiting mode," said a dealer. "The focus on commercial banks' stocks remains, but many who bought such shares are now awaiting an announcement of Israeli approval of Jordanian

banks' licences to reopen in the

occupied territories."

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saed Al Nabulsi said three weeks ago that the bank had issued "preliminary licenses" to five banks to reopen seven branches in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The "preliminary licences" have to be followed up with approval from the Bank of Israel, a process that is being followed up now, in line with the Dec. I agreement between Jordan and Israel.

"Investors will unload their holdings of the shares of those banks poised to reopen in the West Bank as soon as the

Israeli approval is granted," said the dealer.

In the meantime, the focus shifted last week to industrial stocks, which accounted for 46 per cent of the JD 20 million trading followed by commercial banks with 35 per cent.

Commercial bank shares had accounted for 55 per cent of the JD 21.3 million volume in the previous week.

In the meantime, fresh stock of the Islamic Investment House were allowed to be traded in the market this week. Dealers said more than half a million of the new shares

changed hands in the past two

days, with heavy profittaking. The base price for the fresh

stock as allowed by the concerned authorities was JD 3, and the market price was between JD 4.25 and JD 4.5, dealers said.

Old shares of the Islamic Investment House fetched up to JD 4.7 in view of the up-coming distribution of dividend, they said.

In general, however, prices remained static so far this week. There has been no major rise or decline of any share except the profittaking on the Islamic Investment House," said the dealer. "But

then that was expected after the zeroing in on industrial stock that we saw last week."

Investor interest in industrial stock last week was attributed to the dearth of commercial bank shares in the offing and signs that some of the industrial firms listed in the market had already announced or are poised to announce plans to expand in the occupied territories.

The signing of an economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Jan. 7 and the lifting of certain curbs on commercial bank credits

have boosted investor confidence in the Jordanian economy and that is reflected in the stock market, economists

There has been a consistent interest on the part of investors on commercial banks in general since the beginning of the

Commercial bank shares accounted for more than 40 per cent of trading in the weeks that followed the signing of the Jordan-PLO accord, which, among other things, cleared the way for reopening the branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories.

## Egypt to float cement company shares this month

government plans to float shares in at least two coment companies this month in the next stage of its slow privatisa-

tion programme. The chairman of a state holding company said it would offer the public some shares in Helwan Portland Cement Co.

and Egyptian Tora Portland Cement Co., each of which made a profit of about 28 million pounds (\$8 million) in the financial year 1992/3.

RESTAURANT

"A percentage of the shares will be put on the market later this month ... the amount and the price will be fixed within a week," said Adel Abdul

Kanm, chairman of the holding company for Mining and

A Cairo newspaper quoted

Public Sector Minister Atef Obeid as saying shares in four cement companies would be floated on the stock exchange from this week.

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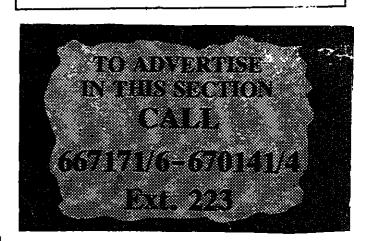


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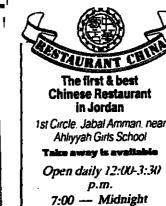


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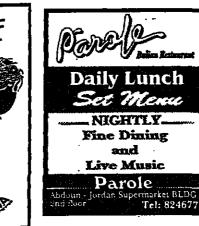
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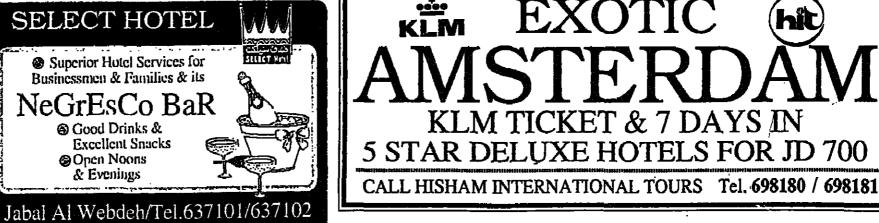
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## N. Korea sanctions 'inevitable'

inctions against North Korea for refusing nuclear inspections appear inevitable despite a new promise by its leader not to develop atomic bombs. South Korean officials said Monday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said U.N. sanctions against the Communist North appeared unavoidable if no progress is made in the nuclear issue within two weeks.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general is expected to declare safeguards broken in North Korea if no breakthrough is made by... Feb. 21." Mr. Han told a meeting with opposition legislators.

"In such a case, it is inevitable that North Korea's nuclear issue would be referred to the U.N. Security Council," he

The International Atomic Energy Agency is a U.N. agency monitoring the spread of nuclear weapons.

North Korea says its nuclear programme is peaceful but its refusal to accept mandatory international inspections has deepened suspicions that it might be developing nuclear weapons.

In a verbal message sent to President Bill Clinton through U.S. Evangelist Billy Graham last week, North Korean President Kim II Sung promised anew that his country would not develop nuclear weapons

Zealander

to attack

Charles

of air freshener.

AUCKLAND (R) — A 58-year-old man muttering that he

wanted to "remove the stink of

royalty" was wrestled to the ground in New Zealand Mon-

day after charging at Britain's

Prince Charles was un-

was foiled when several police

officers leapt on the balding

Bracanov, a Yugoslav settled

in New Zealand, and took him

Showing the same sangfroid

that earned him praise when he

was attacked 10 days ago in

Australia, Prince Charles hard-

ly appeared to notice the inci-

deht, which lasted just a few

seconds. He was completely un-

bothered. His only comment

was an ironic one: 'whatever

next?" his Private Secretary

Richard Aylard told reporters.

Cath Tizard, the queen's rep-

told Reuters that Prince

Charles had barely noticed the

incident and was not bothered

all about?'," Dame Cath said.

sprayed by Mr. Bracanov as he

ran to within three metres of

Prince Charles contained air

heard Mr. Bracanov shouting:

"You're always spraying shit

anyway." Another witness,

photographer Ross Land, said

he heard Mr. Bracanov saying

he wanted to "remove the

in 1988 and 1990 of charges

relating to incidents in which

he dumped horse manure in

the path of cars carrying Span-

He was also convicted of

damaging a rare vintage Rolls

Royce car in Auckland two

years ago because of its con-

Mr. Bracanov is a well-

known voice on New Zealand

talk radio shows, where he

frequently airs radical anti-

monarchy views. His lawyer,

Colin Amery, said Mr. Braca-

nov "has a basic view that

heredity should not automati-

cally grant people high office."
Police said he would appear

in court Tuesday in Auckland

charged with disorderly con-

duct. The maximum penalty is

the past year during a highly-

publicised separation from his

wife, Princess Diana, was

praised for his reaction to a

more violent event in Sydney

on Jan. 26, when a young

student charged at him firing a

Prince Charles, besieged in

a small fine.

starter's gun.

nection to British royalty.

ish and British monarchs.

Mr. Bracanov was convicted

stink of royalty."

Photographer Paul Estcourt

"He just said, what was that

Police said the aerosol

by it.

freshener.

Governor-General Dame

ntative in New Zealand

away under arrest.

New

tries

and hoped for improved ties with Washington, Seoul officials said.

Rev. Graham stopped over in Hong Kong on his way home from the North Korean trip and said he had an aide take Mr. Kim's message to Mr. Clinton ahead of him.

A copy of Mr. Graham's report was sent to the Seoul government by the White

"In the message, President Kim noted that he has promised many times in the past not to develop nuclear weapons and hoped to improve relations with the United States." said Chang Jae-Ryong, directorgeneral of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Divi-

Rev. Graham also said in the report that the 81-year-old Kim looked healthy and gave the impression that he personally handled nuclear and other major state affairs. Kim Jong II, the president's 51year-old son, is being groomed o succeed his father.

Meanwhile, North Korean official newspaper said Monday Pyongyang will not negoti-ate with the United States to end row over its suspected nuclear programme so long as Washington failed to honour its promises.

The United States has totally reversed its promise (to North Korea) that it would seek only an inspection for the continuity of safeguards." said a commentary in the Rodong Sinmun, the organ of North Korea's ruling party.

The article, entitled "we have no intention to negotiate with (a) faithless partner", said the United States had "even raised the demand for a 'special inspection' of two military sites which have nothing to do with nuclear activities.

'We will not entreat the United States to keep its faith. It is our will to answer faith with faith, and strong arm with a tough stance," said the article, carried by the state-run (North) Korean Central News Agency and seen in Tokyo. Last week. North Korea

threatened to tear up its "goodwill commitments" with the United States over Washington demands to open all suspected nuclear sites to international inspection.

At the heart of the dispute is the question of two sites. North Korea insists it has no nuclear weapons programme and has refused to open the sites to inspection by the

In a sign of rising tensions on the Korean peninsula, the United States has decided to deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea from March or April a step South Korean elder statesmen Kim Dae-Jung described Monday as unhelpful. "I don't think it is helpful for

the nuclear negotiations." the retired pro-democracy campaigner said in Hong Kong. Patriot missiles are designed to intercept the type of missiles

In Washington, the Defence Department has told some reservists to prepare for possible joint military exercises with South Korea that North Ko-

a symbol of planning for war. The Post. in a dispatch from Vienna said orders to ship out more than a thousand U.S. troops and reservists to South Korea were being prepared for Feb. 22. The exercise is known as Team Spirit.

rean leaders have portrayed as

In Seoul. a defector from North Korea said Monday he had fled the country because food shortages had forced him and his family to eat animal

Chung Ki-Hae, 52, told a government-organised press conference that even the corn and soybeans mixed with animal fodder provided in rations early last year had run out.

"Beginning last May even these ceased to be provided as rations and our family had to live on potatoes alone," he

Mr. Chung told how he had fled over the Chinese border on Dec. 30 but declined to say how he had reached the South Korean port of Pusan.

Reports of food shortages in North Korea have been rife but unsubstantiated in the three years since China started asking hard currency for its exports and the collapse of the Soviet Union, formerly a main trading partner.

# measures 0.9 centimetres long, 0.9 centimetre BOOK: A tiny book entitled Three wide and 0.8 centimetres high. It is part of a Hundred Poems From The Tang Dynasty is

displayed in the Taiwanese capital, Taipei. The 75-page book took two years to make and

50-piece exhibit of miniatures which will open on Feb. 18 in Taipei (AFP photo)

### Right wing holds secret meeting aheads of planned government, ANC talks tion and warned that a The Freedom Alliance.

which comprises the IFP, the

white right-wing Afrikaner

Volksfront (AVF) and the gov-

ernment of the Bophuthats-

wana black homeland.

opposed ANC claims that

separate ballot papers would

result in confusion and spoiled

The alliance said a single

voting slip would be an advan-

tage to larger parties and penalise smaller political

An IFP official told AFP

Monday that the ANC's offer

to unveil its compromise pack-

age in return for "flexibility"

was "a fortune cookie

approach" to the negotiations.

in the cookie until you break it

She also said an ANC com-

promise on the single-double ballot issue had "no constitu-

tional value in terms of powers

(for the regions) — it only has democratic value."

Alliance spokesmen remained

tight-lipped over the eventual

resumption of the talks.

Both government and

An Alliance spokesman said

there "a news blackout" on the

conservative group's meeting, and that things were "at a very

delicate stage."
The IFP Central Committee

met Sunday in Ulundi and de-

open," she said.

"You cannot find out what is

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The conservative Freedom Alliance was locked in top secret talks Monday ahead of a planned meeting with the government and the African National Congress (ANC) on whether it will take part in the country's first all-race elections in April.

Sources close to the Alliance said the tripartite talks would begin Monday evening in Pre-toria, but none of the participants would officially confirm

The negotiations had recessed Thursday following an ANC announcement that it would unveil a package of compromises bowing to certain Alliance demands only if the conservative group agreed to be more "flexible.

An ANC spokesman said the ball was now in the Alliance's court, while a spokesman for the rival, Zulubased Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), a top member of the Freedom Alliance, said it was up to the ANC to decide whether or not it intended to unveil its package.
The ANC said last week that

it had backed down on its demand for a single ballot paper to choose members of both the national and regional assembles in the April 26-28 election.

age also included greater federal powers for the country's nine new provinces.

Other reports said the pack-

cided that IFP negotiators would stick to their demands for a stronger federal constitu-

would have "adverse implica-On Monday, President F.W. De Klerk accused the ANC of "deliberately" sidelining the IFP and its leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, saying this

government-ANC rejection

continued to be major cause behind the violence in South Speaking to a group of businessmen here, he also appealed for their support in

order to have a "balance of power" in the national unity government to emerge from the April election.

The ANC, meanwhile, announced Monday that its

president, Nelson Mandela, would hold talks with Bophuthatswana's President Lucas Mangope, but that the date was not yet known. On Sunday, Mandela's con-

voy drove through Bophuthatswana police lines while on an election campaign. with Mr. Mandela saying the homeland leader's refusal to allow free political activity was among "the things that make us detest (Mangope) from the

bottom of our heart." But, Mr. Mandela added. "despite all the unspeakable crimes Mangope has committed, we are prepared to sit down with him and find a solution... if Mangope wants to ten very carefully."

### 43 in Madagascar Cyclone kills

ANTANANARIVO (R) — At least 43 people were killed and

"Geralda", which raced across the Indian Ocean, first hit Madagascar last Wednesday. It sank seven ships and destroyed 95 per cent of the main commercial port of Toasmasina on the east coast, offi-

The cyclone, accompanied by torrential rains, cut a swathe of destruction 800 kilometres wide and reeked some of its worst damage on the east coast near Toamasina and on the resort island of Sainte-Marie. The centre of the storm pas-

sed 50 kilometres north of the hill capital Antananarivo, the Meteorological Office said. Rivers burst their banks, causing widespread flooding and

speech therapy was he able to

regain his voice. But his acting

career was over. In 1989 his

destroying harvests of the is-land's dirt-poor farmers. Authorities say the full extent of the damage is still not known.

The cyclone has disrupted communication links between Anatanarivo and other parts of the country and reports from the remote south-east and south of the island have not yet reached the capital.

The Madagascar Meteorological Office said the cyclone gusted at speeds of between 150 km per hour (94 miles) to 300 km (187 miles) per hour east to west across the world's fourth largest island.

Joseph Cotten, Hollywood's southern gentleman, dies

### Cotten suffered a stroke in Welles invited Cotten to join 1981 and only after years of his theatre troupe, which be-

voice box was removed in a treatment for cancer and, unable to speak, he took up ine Hepburn onstage in the Philadelphia Story, playing the well-bred C.K. Dexter Haven. During a career spanning three decades. Cotten always

avoided pretence. "Movies and theatre aren't life," he once told an inter-

viewer. "They're only part of it. We make a living out of acting and pray we don't get associated with too much

Cotten was born in Petersburg, Virginia, May 15, 1905. His mother's family owned two plantations, but Cotten attended public schools and delivered packages by bicycle.

Odd jobs led him to Miami. He sold advertising for the Miami Herald, wrote drama reviews and performed with theatre groups, where he met Lenore Kipp Lamont, a divorcee who convinced him to take his talent back to New York. They were wed in 1931.

In 1936, while playing the policeman in James M. Cain's The Postman Always Rings Twice at the Lyceum Theatre, Cotten met Orson Welles, while performing in a serious radio show, the pair launched aloud at a colleague's gaffe, They were fired together, which formed the basis of their friendship.

came the Mercury Theatre Co. Cotten performed in many of Welles's plays and radio programmes, including the famous 1938 War Of The Worlds, before joining Kathar-

The film role went to Cary Grant, but Welles was waiting with Citizen Kane, Cotten played the theatre critic who was friend and conscience to newspaper baron Charles Foster Kane. "I'd never made a movie

before and I was scared to death of the machinery, the technical things." Cotten recalled. "But Orson made it easy... He turned out to be an instinctive master of the camera."

After courting Merle Oberon in the 1941 British production of Lydia, Cotten returned to work with Welles on The Magnificent Ambersons, the tale of a declining aristocratic family and one of Cotten's best movies.

Cotten joined Welles in writing and starring in Journey Into Fear before he signed a contract in 1942 with producer David O. Selznick, who cast him in Shadow Of A Doubt as a sly slayer of wealthy widows.

In Gaslight (1944), Cotten played a Scotland Yard detective opposite Ingrid Bergman, who won an Oscar.

### Whoopi Goldberg named to host Oscar ceremony HOLLYWOOD (R) - Oscar-

winning actress and comedian Whoopi Goldberg was named Sunday to host this year's Academy Awards ceremony Goldberg, the first woman and first black performer to serve as a solo host of the show, replaces Billy Crystal, who last month said he would not return after filling the role for four straight years. "I'm thrilled about my date with Oscar," Goldberg said in a statement. To go from watching to winning to hosting in one lifetime is major." The Academy Awards will be handed out March 21 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles and will be televised live to hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide. "Whoopi Goldberg has all the qualities of a great Oscar host," the show's producer Gilbert Cates said. "She is a major movie star with millions of fans and she is also one of the funniest. most talented performers working today." Goldberg re-cently went to bat for her then-companion, actor Ted Danson when Danson was criticised for blacking his face and telling a series of bawdy, and what some considered racist and sexist jokes, at a charity luncheon for Goldberg. She later defended his routine. saying she had written some of the material and that she found it funny. With Crystal's abrupt announcement he would not return as host, Cates was faced with the task of finding a replacement quickly. Along with Goldberg, a number of others had been rumoured as possible successors, including Robin Williams, Tom Hanks, Eddie Murphy, Chevy Chase and Johnny Carson. Goldberg, who won an Oscar for best supporting actress in 1991 for her role in Ghost, has cohosted comic relief - a televised charity benefit for the bomelss — in recent years.

### Trial to hear claim Jackson swiped song

DENVER (AP) — Michael

Jackson isn't expected when a trial begins to hear a Colorado songwriter's claim that the pop superstar pirated the hit song Dangerous. Jackson's publicist Lee Solters said Denver was "not on his schedule." His lawyer will be there, along with Crystal Cartier, who says she years ago. "He augmented the lyrics, he took the chorus, the hook, from my song — and that's loot," Cartier said. "I don't mind sharing credit, but I got bumped completely out of the picture." Jackson and his lawyer have refused to comment on the case. The U.S. District Court trial will decide Ms. Cartier's copyright infringement claim. If she prevails, there will be a second trial to determine damages. Ms. Cartier plans to seek at least \$40 million. Last month, a Los Angeles jury ruled Jackson didn't steal the songs Thriller, The Girl Is Mine and We Are the World from two former childhood neighbours in Indiana. Later, Jackson settled a lawsuit alleging he molested a teenage boy. Ms. Cartier said she wrote Dangerous in 1985 and her band, Love Story, has been playing it ever since. On July 29, 1991, she copyrighted her recorded album, Love Story: Act One, which contained Dangerous, she said. She said Jackson obtained a copyright for his version of Dangerous on Feb. 24, 1992. Cartier's album sold about 1,000 copies in the Denver area. Jackson's Dangerous

### **Most Americans** oppose gay marriages — poll

album has sold upwards of 14

million copies.

NEW YORK (R) - The majority of Americans oppose legally sanctioned adoption rights and marriages for homosexuals despite stated support for gay job and housing rights that remains above 70 per cent, according to new Newsweek magazine poll. The survey, which appears in the magazine going on sale Mon-day, found that 29 per cent of those polled say gay couples should have adoption rights. while nearly two thirds (65 per cent) disagree. Sixty-two per cent of Americans do not believe there should be legally sanctioned gay marriages, as compared to 58 per cent in a similar September 1992 poli by the magazine. According to the survey, 74 per cent of all Americans favour protecting gays from job discrimination and 81 per cent favour equal housing rights for gays.

## **New Finnish president** stresses need for unity HELSINKI (R) -- Finland's President-Elect Martti Ahti-

saari has pledged to be a unifying force in a country mired in recession and facing tough foreign policy choices. Mr. Ahtisaari, a veteran Un-

ited Nations diplomat with little experience of domestic politics, is expected to continue neutral Finland's moves towards closer ties with the West since the collapse of the Soviet

Prince Charles spraying a can Mr. Ahtisaari, 56, of the opposition Social Democrats, Castislav Bracanov, prebeat Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn of the Swedish viously iailed for minor attacks on royalty visiting New Zealand, rushed towards the heir People's Party Sunday in Finland's first presidential election by direct popular vote, he won to the British throne as he 53.9 per cent of the votewalked among crowds of wellwishers on Auckland wateragainst Ms. Rehn's 46.1 per

> He is a firm supporter of the European Union next year.

"The incoming president will have difficult tasks both in economic and foreign policy. It is important that the nation is not split," Mr. Ahtisaari said after Ms. Rehn conceded de-"I will try to see to it that I

am perceived as a president for the whole country," he said.

Despite Mr. Ahtisaari's campaign focus on the country's worst recession since independence from neighbouring Russia in 1917, his main task will be foreign policy, including maintaining good re-

Throughout his campaign Mr. Ahtisaari has said that Russia, with which Finland shares a 1,270 kilometres border, must not be isolated in post-cold war Europe.

lations with Moscow.

"We have always in Finland wanted to maintain good relations with our neighbours, particularly Russia, and I want to continue that," he told a postelection news conference.

"It is important that we support a democratic process in Russia, it is important that

reforms continue and that they are supported by the interna-

tional community," he said. In Stockholm, Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said, 'he will be a president who continues and strengthens the Nordic and European orientation of Finnish politics, which has become ever more pronounced in recent years."

In the late 1980s, Finnish leaders said the country's neutrality was incompatible with European Community membership. But its room for manoeuvre

increased after the demise of

the Soviet Union and Finland is now, like Sweden, in the final stages of negotiating EU Even NATO membership

has not been ruled out, though its policy remains one of indenon-alignment. "I favour a pan-European security system containing all

the sides important to us. In such a system, care must be taken not to leave Russia outside," Mr. Ahtisaari said last However, political analysts

say it was Mr. Ahtisaari's focus on record unemployment of nearly 20 per cent, which was a decisive factor in his victory. Mr. Ahtisaari, a heavilybuilt man with a pensive man-

ner, only decided to run for the presidency last March, benefiting from voter disenchantment with old-style covert politics that dominated the country throughout the cold war.

He said voters had recognised him as independentminded and has vowed to travel widely round the vast but sparsely-populated country to stay in touch with the peo-

"I want to maintain this contact because I sense that somehow people felt they had lost the capacity to influence the events in this country," he has

## Son of former president wins Costa Rican election

SAN JOSE (R) — The son of the founder of modern democratic Costa Rica won Sunday's presidential election.

With more than 80 per cent of the vote counted, Jose Maria Figueres led ruling party candidate Miguel Angel Rodriguez by 49.7 per cent to 47.5

"The soul of our campaign was the strength of the people, and with that we won the elections," Mr. Figueres de-

Mr. Rodriguez conceded defeat earlier in the evening. The two candidates were running neck and neck when early returns began coming in.

"The people have spokenand we have to accept their decision, so with joy and affection I have come to accept the decision of the people and wish Mr. Figueres success," Mr. Rodriguez said.

Mr. Figueres, 39, leader of the National Liberation Party, said social justice would be the hallmark of his government. Addressing thousands of supporters at an outdoor rally. Mr. Figueres said his victory marked a rejection of "trickledown" economic policies of the government of the Social Christian Unity Party. "We are going to... put the

country on the road to progress with social justice," he said. Mr. Figueres will succeed

President Rafael Angel Calderon, who leaves office on May 8 after a four-year term. The constitution barred Mr. Calderon from seeking a second term.

Mr. Figueres is the son of late former President Jose "pepe" Figueres, the founder of modern democratic Costa

The younger Figueres, a former agriculture minister. vowed to give the government a greater role in the country's social development after more than a decade of free-market economics.

"I come to reaffirm that we will govern for those who have the least and need the most,"

## French **Socialists** start recovery

PARIS (AFP) - France's opposition Socialist Party made the beginnings of a recovery, winning two out of three by-elections against candidates of the right and scoring a closely-fought victory in a Paris constituency.

Socialist leader Michel

Rocard called the results in Sunday's polls a sign of the party's "recovery" after its defeat in legislative elections in March 1993. The three byelections were called after France's Constitutional Council annulled last March's results for campaign overspending, making the winners ineligible

In spite of high abstention rates, the Socialist candidate in Paris, Daniel Vaillant, the party's national secretary, scored a convincing victory with 53.6 per cent of the vote, winning the seat back from the centreright Union for French Democracy (UDF) in a working class His success was all the more

remarkable after right-wing leaders, including Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) leader Jacques Chirac, turned out to support Anne-Marie Pierre-Bloch, wife of the invalidated UDF-MP. In the Loire Valley consti-

tuency of Blois, the outcome was more a demonstration of the continuing popularity of the city's mayor, former Socialist Culture Minister Jack

Joseph Cotten, the courtly

southern gentleman who

gained stardom in the 1941

classic Citizen Kane and went

on to become one of the most

popular leading men of his era.

Cotten died of pneumonia at

his home in the Westwood

section of Los Angeles with his

wife, actress Patricia Medina,

at his bedside, his publicist said.

Cotten had been ill for several

In the rough-and-tumble

acting that was Hollywood in

the 1940s there were tough

guys, romantic heroes, aristoc-

rats and rogues, but Cotten

was considered a gentleman to

The adjectives used to de-

scribe Cotten, a Virginian

whose grandfather was a Con-

federate general in the civil

war, were applied as well to his characters: Suave, urbane,

modest, intelligent. low-key.

Tall and square-jawed with a

resonant voice. he played his

first film role — and perhaps

his most memorable — in

Citizen Kane, considered

among the greatest American

He portrayed Jedidiah Le-

land, the childhood friend to

the title character, played by

his own friend, legendary actor

and director Orson Welles. Through the 1940s and early

1950s. Cotten appeared oppo-

site some of Hollywood's top

leading ladies, including

the core.

died Sunday. He was 88.

dozens more seriously injured when the "cyclone of the century" swept over the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar last week, the Interior Minister said Monday. Charles Clement Severin told reporters a further 500,000 people were made homeless by 'Geralda" which destroyed up to 70 per cent of the impoverished island's rice fields, up-

flimsy shelters.

rooted trees and destroyed



Joseph Cotten in the movie The Third Man Marilyn Monroe, Ingrid Berg-

man and Bette Davis. One of his most heralded roles was in the 1949 film The Third Man, playing an American pulp novelist searching for an old pal in post-war Vienna.

acclaim in such movies as The Magnificent Ambersons (1942), also by Welles, Alfred Hitchcock's Shadow Of A Doubt (1943). I'll Be Seeing You (1945), Love Letters (1945) and The Farmer's Daughter (1947).

In the waning years of his career, cotten was reduced to B-movie roles in such films as Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte (1965) with Davis. Soylent Green (1973) and Airport '77 (1977), but he still managed to give them a touch of class.

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He also gained critical

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## Ewing leads Knicks past Magic | Lillehammer plans solidarity

Jordan, playing in his fifth

game, had only seen 11 mi-

nutes of action before helping

the Lakers win for the 36th

time in 43 games against the

Robinson scored 36 points, in-

cluding two free throws with

4.1 seconds left in overtime

that gave the San Antonio

Spurs their seventh straight

win, 104-102 over the New

points for the Spurs, who have

won 18 of their last 21 games.

points and 14 rebounds and

Kenny Anderson added 26

points and 12 assists for the

Nets, who had their three-

Derrick Coleman had 28

Willie Anderson added 18

At New Jersey, David

Jazz in Los Angeles.

Jersey Nets.

NEW YORK (R) — Patrick Ewing had 32 points and Charles Oakley added 13 points and 21 rebounds to spark the New York Knicks to a 95-77 victory over the Orlando Magic late Sunday.

The Knicks won for the seventh time in their last eight

Orlando, held to its fewest points this season, has lost three straight for the first time of the season. Shaquille O'Neal had 22 points for the Magic, but was hampered with five fouls over the last 4-1-2

In Washington, Chris Webber scored 26 points and Gol-den State held Washington to a franchise-low seven points in the fourth-quarter to propel the Warriors to a 106-84 victory over the Bullets.

Latrell Sprewell added 23

points for the Warriors and Billy Owens scored 20. Webber, Sprewell and Owens scored four points apiece in a 12-point run that

game winning streak snapped. In Denver, Laphonso Ellis scored 21 points and Rodney Rogers had 12 of his 20 points extended Golden State's lead during a second quarter run to to 102-83 with 2:15 left. lead the Denver Nuggets to a In Los Angeles, Reggie Jor-

99-89 triumph over the Dallas Mavericks in a game that was dan, who had only scored two points this season coming into the game, totalled 28 to lead not as close as the final score the Los Angeles Lakers to a might indicate. 107-90 victory over the Utah

Denver led 25-20, early in the second quarter before embarking on an 18-8 run that was led by Rogers' 12 points.

In Houston, Hakeem Olaiuwon scored 25 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and blocked eight shots to propel the Houston Rockets to a 101-90 victory over the Minnesota Timber-

Otis Thorpe added 19 points and also dominated on the boards with 17 rebounds as the Rockets won their third game without a defeat against the Timberwolves this season.

In Phoenix, Kevin Johnson returned from the chicken pox to score 22 points and Chicago's Scottie Pippen missed an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer to give the Phoenix Suns an 89-88 victory over the Bulls.

Pippen scored a game-high 26 points but missed everything on his desparation shot at the buzzer as Chicago had a four-game winning streak

# day for besieged Bosnian capital

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Lillehammer plans a day of solidarity with the people of the besieged Bosnian capital fo Sarajevo Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Winter Olympics

1.

there. Mayor Audun Tron, whose town hosts the 1994 games, will sign a special book for messages to Sarajevo and invite others to add their names to the peace appeal in the main square, Lillehammer Olympic aid spokeswoman Nita Kapoor said Monday.

The Lillehammer Olympic Aid Organisation is collecting money for Sarajevo to mark the 10th anniversary and also for young people in Guatemala, Eritrea, Lebanon and

Afghanistan. On Saturday, 68 people were killed in a mortar attack on a Sarajevo market and nearly 200 were wounded in the worst single incident in

COLORADO SPRINGS.

Colo. (AP) - Tonya Harding

Bosnia's 22-month civil war, Kapoor said the solidarity day had been arranged Friday.

What happened at the weekend makes it all the more necessary," she said. "I think that such an appeal is very appropriate.'

Organisers plan to light can-dles in the shape of the five interlocking Olympic rings and to keep them burning until Tuesday evening.

The book will be handed to

the mayor of Sarajevo when he arrives to attend the Lillehammer Games, which open Satur-

day.
"It will be very simple and a very symbolic act," Kapoor said of the solidarity day for Sarajevo.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to arrange a truce in Bosnia for the duration of the Lillehammer Games.

The Sarajevo games began

Harding, Kerrigan to meet on the

ice in Winter Olympic Games

Winter Olympics - be held in Eastern Eur Forty-nine countries att :.

., Sarajevo's At that main claim . ...me was that it was the cit here Archduke Franz Ferdin was assassinated in 1914 arking World War I.

Now few \_ e not heard of the bloodshee in the Bosnian capital and the whole of the

former Yugosiav republic. Lillehammer Olympic aid. which is backed by the games organisers and other Norwegian bodies, has already raised more than 40 million crowns (\$5.3 million). Of that, 27 million crowns (\$3.6 million) have already been spent on food, medicines and a hospital unit for Sarajevo.

The fund-raising campaign began at the Barcelona summer games in 1992 when Lillehammer was passed the Olym-

### anion, actor le Thais win Asian crown

a series of band ome considered in BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) ist jokes, at a the Omani Club of Oman 2-1 for Goldham Omani Club of Oman 2-1 1 for Goldberg 9 1 aded his rouge Monday night to take the and written some; Asian Club Soccer Cham-

and that she for ith Crystal's abac Earlier, Japanese champions Yomiuri Verdy salvaged a ent he would u st. Cates was be third-prace manner. sk of finding 4-1 in the conthird-place finish, beating Chisk of finding quickly. Along or solation playoff. number of other

The Thais scored the opening goal only three minutes into the match after Thawan Thamniyai rifled home a cross om Hanks. He from Sasom Pobprasert.

Thevy Chase & Thirteen minutes later Sing arson. Goldber Totavee scored on a lob over an Oscar for k Omani goalkeeper Yousuf actress in 19915 Obaid after hard-working 1 Ghost, has s Worravudh Srimaka split the offside trap with a devious

> In the 44th minute, the Omanis scored on a set play when Ebrahim Ali's corner

kick found Zahir Salim whose strong header to the far post eluded Thai goalkeeper Nipon Malanont.

With the Omanis taking the initiative in the second half, the Thais chose to foul their way out of trouble as they also did in the semifinal victory against Yomiuri.

Referee Ali Bujasim handed out five yellow cards.

In the consolation match, two first-half goals from young prospect Shingi Ono set Yomiuri on its way to a sorely needed victory. Yomiuri lost 3-1 in extra time to Thai Farmers Bank in Saturday's semi-

Yomiuri extended its lead in the second half with a goal in the 65th minute by Toshimi Kikuchi in a messy attack initiated by a long searching cross

**Gustafsson wins Dubai title** 

third game.

Furlan beats Chang in final of San Jose Open fought back to lead 6-5. In the

becoming more daring as the match wore on, upset Michael Chang 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 Sunday night to win the San Jose Open, his first title on the tour. 'I'm in the sky right now," said Furlan, the No. 6 seed from Italy. "I can't believe I

Furlan, ranked 69th in the world, knocked off the top seed after defeating the No. 2 seed Richey Reneberg on Saturday. He earned \$42,000 for the victory over the world's ninth-ranked player.

"I was nervous at first, playing Michael Chang in a championship match and all," Furlan said. "Nothing was working. But I started feeling more comfortable in the second set and did a better job of coming to the net." In the second set, he broke

Chang three times. Furlan went up 2-0 in the final set before Chang broke in the

Chang was at break point in the 11th game, but in furlan

SAN JOSE, California (AP) deciding game, Furlan was up 30-0 and 40-30. Chang rallied - Renzo Furlan, his game to twice hold the advantage, but went no further. He committed an unforced error and then double-faulted. Furlan won when Chang's return went

"It was a good week but a frustrating day," said Chang, who carned \$24,150, "I found that I really need to work on my conditioning. I didn't expect to play back-to-back three-hour matches."

Chang of Henderson, Nevada, defeated Furlan last year in thier only previous meeting.

"He changed tactics after the first set," Chang said. "He started serving and volleying more, and it threw me off some. He picked my serve pretty well, too, and I didn't handle his well, even though his first serve often wasn't that

In the doubles final Sunday night, second-seeded Rick Leach and Jared Palmer upset top-seeded Bryon Black and Jonathan Stark, 4-6, 6-4. 6-4.

### its sizzle. though a U.S. Figure Skating Hassiba Bouhnerka

## Boulmerka wins invitational

mile FAIRFAX, Virgina (R) — Hassiba Boulmerka won her

second indoor mile in three days Sunday, when a rival misjudged the finish line at an invitational athletics meeting. Algeria's Boulmerka, the Olympic 1500-metre cham-

pion, who had never competed indoors before winning her hist race in New York Hind finished in 4 minutes, 28.64 seconds. Suzy Hamilton of the United States led until the bell lap, but

misjudged the finish and pulled up to finish third behind Boulmerka and Kathy Francy of the "I felt really strong, and I

think if I hadn't done what I did, I would have had a different strategy, maybe gone a little easier until the halfway point, then turned it on at the end," Hamilton said, "When I saw people whiz by me I said. 'Oh no, I can't believe what I just did."

In other events, Jamaica's Juliet Cuthbert used a strong start to beat Gwen Torrence of the U.S. in the women's 60 metres, finishing in 7.14

Olympic beptathlon champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee of the U.S. finished fourth in the 60 metres, saying she was more concerned with sharpening her sprinting speed for the heptathlon than winning.

telephone.

garage.

### have not charged Harding in a plot that has already brought a guilty plea by her ex-husband leff Gillooly and confessions by three other men. Harding met for more than

vs. Nancy Kerrigan on the ice in Norway. If it comes off, it will undoubtedly be one of the most

dramatic confrontations in Olympic history. If it doesn't, the glamour event of the Winter Olympics will lose much of Right now, it's still on, even

Association panel called for a disciplinary hearing against Harding. The panel said Saturday that it found "reasonable grounds," to believe she was involved in the attack on Kerrigan at the national championships in Detroit a month Rather than boot Harding

from the Olympic team, the association passed the decision on to the USOC along with a "black book" containing nearly 400 pages of affidavits, court documents and other evidence gathered independently by the

Virtually all of that information is in the hands of prosecutors in Portland, Ore., who

two hours Sunday with her lawyer but neither had any comment on the meeting. Claire Ferguson, president of the USFSA, carefully fol-

lowed the rules of the association in not suspending Harding prior to the disciplinary hearing. "I would prefer to have Tonya have her time with the

hearing panel, to follow through and to make sure she's had her chance to speak with the member panel," Ferguson Asked whether there were any conditions under which she

might suspend Harding before the Olympics, Ferguson re-"No, because I believe that

the Olympics has a different set of rules that can handle this if they so choose. We are concerned with our world championships as well as the Olvmpics, which will be held in

Japan in the middle of March. and we must have our team

Bill Hybl, chairman of the five-member USFSA panel and a former USOC president, acknowledged that the fear of a lawsuit by Harding was a factor in the association's judgement to proceed conser-

The USOC is expectedd to convene its games administrative board within two weeks in Norway to determine Harding's status, and a decision to throw her off the team would be final - even if Harding refuses to testify at the hearing. In an interview Sunday with

CBS. USOC Executive Director Harvey Schiller said there were "issues of conduct,sportsmanship and others to be considered."

Among those issues, Schiller said, was Harding's admission that she learned of the plot after Kerrigan was clubbed on the right knee and knocked out of the U.S. figure skating championships Jan. 6 but did not immediately report the information to police.

## 1994 in excellent form winning

GOREN BRIDGE

NOT QUITE A STARRING LEAD

DUBAI (R) - Magnus Gustalsson of Sweden scored an upset victory over top seed Sergei Bruguera of Spain to win the \$1 million Dubai Opeff... tennis tournament in straight. sets late Sunday.

swept aside the strangely outof-sorts Spaniard 6-4, 6-2 to pick up the \$144,000 winner's

He augmented the And afterwards he revealed ok the chorus, it that his recent run of improved play could be the result of the Cartier said 1 transcendental meditation which he practices for 20 minutes, twice a day.

Jackson and "I don't know if it is that," refused to one he said, "but these days I am e case. The US certianly feeling full of energy rt trial will deak and very relaxed. 's copyright Bruguera must have known claim. If she per was not going to be his day

after a lacklustre start which saw him quickly fall 4-1 behind in the opening set. Gustafsson, who has started

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH • Q J 10 3 7 K 7

#AQJ64 EAST

SOUTH SOUTH

South West

\*AK8762 ?Q8 ¢K

Opening lead: '.
When a player underleads an ace

at the opening gun and it works, it is grist for the mills of bridge colum-uista. When it does not ...? On this hand from the 1992 World Team

Olympiad, some of the game's best players wound up with egg on their faces.

A competitive auction led to con

AQ1064209873

**\*9875** 

in Auckland and reaching the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, executed an array of tremendous forehands which Gustafsson, seeded four, period of four vept aside the the French Open champion only one point.

Although Bruguera responded after Gustafsson let faults and a few clumsy returns, the Sweden never lost the initiative. The second set continued in

much the same vein with Gutasfsson cutting loose to win four straight games after the opening four games were evenly shared. Bruguera had a chance to

come back in the sixth game but frittered away two break points and instead of levelling at 3-3 he was trailing 2-4 and staring inevitable defeat in the

low diamond at trick one and a thor-

oughly surprised South won the first trick with the diamond king.

Declarer drew trumps with the

ace and queen, then ruffed the jack of diamonds. A low heart was led to

the king and ace, and the heart re-turn was won by the queen. Whether

East won or not when declarer fi-nessed the jack of clubs, the defend-

ers could score no more than one club trick to go with the one heart

trick already in the bank. Eventual-by East would be trapped in an end-

play and forced to return a club or yield a ruff-sluff.
Although Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell of the U.S missed the mark in the suction by not reaching

a makable five diamonds, their de-fensive effort was a spectacular suc-

cess. Against four spades Meckstroth led the ace of diamonds

and shifted to a heart. Rodwell rose with the ace and found the brilliant shift to a low club from the king into the powerful holding in dummy. Meckstroth ruffed to complete the

defensive book and Rodwell still had to score the king of clubs for a one-

It's easy to see why Meckstroth

and Rodwell are considered among

the elite of world bridge.

## DAVIS CUP ROUNDUP

## Japan crushes China 5-0

JAPAN romped to a 5-0 victory over China in Davis Cup Malaysia 3-2.

advancing to the first round of

Matsuoka downed Xia Jai Ping 6-4, 6-0 and Yamamoto

Chen edged Adam Malik in a closely-fought first set tie

On Saturday, the Malaysian Taiwanese in doubles play.

regional qualifying contests.

action Sunday while Taiwan came from 2-1 down to win the final two singles and oust Their team already sure of

Asia-Oceania Zone group 1, Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka and Yasufumi Yamamoto won their best-of-three singles matches in straight sets at Beij-

had a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Pan

Facing defeat before their own fans at Taichung, the

### Taiwanese singles players Chih-Jung Chen and Yu-Hui Lien both gained straight-set victories to overturn Malaysia's lead in Asia-Oceania group II.

break and then went on to win 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, 6-4. Lien started impressively against Ramachandran Ramaiah and overpowered the Malaysian 6-

fair teamed up to beat the The matches were among 12

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pliances, separate entrance and garden. For information please call Nabil 694865

## **Blood tests at games** may not prove much

LILLEHAMMER (R) --Blood tests to be introduced at the Winter Games may be of limited value, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical chief has said.

Prince Alexandre de Merode said the tests, part of the campaign to combat the growing problem of doping in sport, would only be able to detect athletes who have taken blood transfusions from a third

"They will not prove very much." he said after briefing the IOC's executive board on the tests. "I don't think anybody is doing that but you never know.

"If you don't test, you won't find out. Anyway, this is a first

De Merode said just under 200 tests would be carried out in Lillehammer where the games start Saturday and that no competitor would be asked

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to undergo more than two. He said only athletes affiliated to the International Ski Federation (FIS) would be tested, restricting the group to Alpine and Nordic skiers.

The IOC had hoped to introduce tests which could detect the hormone drug erythropoietin, known as EPO, generally used to increase the red blood cell count for kidney Some athletes are thought to

use the hormone as a substitute for blood droping, a technique in which some blood is taken from an athlete's body and put back just before competition to enhance the distribution of oxygen to the muscles.

Blood testing is being restricted to FIS athletes as the federation has already used them at nordic championships.

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# racts of four and five spades around the room. Where North-South were pushed to the five level, many Wests, anxious for a club ruff, led a T 0 Ð Y

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CONCORD "2"

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Kuwait reopens air base destroyed in war

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait on Monday reopened the second of its two air hases after repairing extensive damages inflicted on it by Iraq, or moiers more than three years ago. Brigadier 'General Salves' weidan, commander of the air force, told the Associated Prize the first phase of repairs on Ahmad Al Jaber base has cost in government \$100 million. He would not say how much more bas needed to complete the job. The base, 75 kilometres west of Kuwait City, was 95 per cent destroyed during the Gui ar. The emirate reopened its only other base, Ali Al Salem. Jan. 17 to mark the third anniversary of the U.S.-led coalities air campaign to free Kuwait from Iraqi troops. Gen. Sweidan said the air force also will keep a base it has been using at the international airport since liberation. Kuwait has earmarked \$12 billion to spend in the next decade on rebuilding and strengthening its small military which was devastated by the occupation and the Gulf war. But the plan has yet to be sanctioned by parliament.

### israeli archaeologists find sunken treasure

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli archaeologists have found a sunken treasure of 2,000-year-old Greek coins off the coast of northern Israel, the antiquities authority said on Monday. More than 4,000 silver coins bearing the likeness of the Greek Emperor Ptolemy VI were found. The authority said the coins, weighing a total of more than 40 kilogrammes, went down with one of the merchant ships that sailed the Eastern Mediterranean in the first and second centuries BC. The coins were minted around the year 145 BC. Yaacov Sharvit, who led the underwater archaeological team, said he believes the coins were being transported from Egypt northwards, either to buy slaves or to pay soldiers' wages.

### Another \$35m for Jewish settlers

TEL AVIV (AFP) - The Israeli government has decided to pour another \$35 million into Jewish settlements on occupied territory to improve security, settlers' leaders announce Monday, Reserve army General Yossef Koller, security chief for the West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements where some 120,000 Israelis live, said the decision was taken because the communities were now "on the frontline." Among the improvements would be the setting up of "distress centres" to which all settler cars would be linked by a red alert button in event of attack.

### Iraqi train hits bus; 27 die, driver survives

BAGHDAD (AFP) - A train slammed into a packed bus on a level crossing just south of here at the weekend, killing 27 passengers and injuring 10 others, the Defence Ministry daily reported Monday. The bus driver miraculously survived as his verhicle was sliced in two by the train which was heading for Baghdad from the southern city of Basra on Saturday night. The line between Basra and Baghdad was closed Sunday because of the accident, which happened 35 kilometres south of here, said the newspaper, Al Qaddisiyah. Several of the injured were in serious condition.

### Rafsanjani opens artillery factory

TEHRAN (AFP) --- President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani opened an artillery factory in the Iranian capital on Monday, the official news agency IRNA reported. The factory builds 122-millimetre artillery guns, which have a range of 22 kilometres and can fire six or seven shells per minute, it said. Defence Minister Mohammad Fornzandeh and other military officials accompanied Mr. Rafsanjani during his visit.

## Tunisian rights group chooses leaders

TUNIS (R) — A congress of Tunisia's Human Rights League (LTDH), one of the most active human rights groups in North Africa, chose a more moderate, government-backed leadership Monday. The congress decided with a narrow majority to abide by a 1992 law requiring it to open its membership to anyone who would like to join, though continue contesting it. The league's public campaign against human rights abuses in Tunisia in recent years brought it into conflict with the government which accused some of its leaders of using it for political goals. The new 25-member leadership includes 12 independents, a few representatives from the ruling and legal opposition parties and also two "progressive Islamists." The government is widely seen as having backed the winning list against the previous leadership which was dominated by independent, liberal and leftist figures and some prominent members of opposition parties.

### Israel to show new missile in Singapore

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel will present a new version of the Popeye air-to-surface missile at the Asian Aerospace Exhibi-tion in Singapore this month, officials at the state-run Israeli Aircraft Industries said Monday. The Popeye II is a lighter, cheaper and smaller missile than the first model, which went into service with the Israeli and U.S. air forces nine years ago. The new weapon was successfully test fired from an F-16C fighter in December, the officials said. It costs \$300,000 — \$150,000 less than the old Popeye, for which total sales reached \$200 million. Israel Aircraft Industries and the U.S. firm Martin Marietta manufacture the Popey jointly.

### Child killed in landmine blast in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) - A 10-year-old girl was killed and three other children wounded in a landmine explosion in South Lebanon on Monday, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers here said. Inaya Sultan was playing with her brothers and sisters at the time, in a field near her home in Sawwane, a village bordering on Israel's self-declared "security zone," east of the port of Tyre. One of her brothers, three-year-old Khalil, was seriously wounded. It was not immediately clear whether the landmine had been left behind after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon or placed there tecently. Soldiers serving with the U.N. Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) are deployed in Sawwane.

### Paraglider remanded for a week

LONDON (R) - An American who paraglided onto the roof of Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace in a bizarre stunt which raised fresh concerns about royal security was remanded in custody for a week on Monday, court officials said. James Miller, 30, who paraglided into the ring at a Las Vegas hotel complex during a world heavyweight boxing title fight last November, was arrested within minutes of stripping naked on the palace roof in freezing weather on Saturday. Mr. Miller. whose middle name was given as Fanman and his address as Nevada, stared ahead during the three-minute hearing in which he faced one public order offence and five aviation offences. Eyewitnesses said that after Mr. Miller landed he threw off all his clothes to reveal his naked body painted green below the waist, ran to the front of the palace and gave a clenched fist victory salute.

### Man threatens to freeze Siberian city

MOSCOW (AP) - A man who threatened to blow up a Siberian city's heating plants and freeze its citizens was arrested after police decided his extortion attempt was a bluff. authorities said Monday. Last Friday, the man demanded \$500,000 in U.S. cash and 500 million rubles, worth an additional \$320,000 at current exchange rates, to leave the city of Yakutsk in peace. He claimed to represent a gang called Vozmezdie (revenge) and said bombs had been planted at vital facilities across the city of 200,000 people, including its central heating plants, amid sub-zero temperatures.

## Vietnam hands over **12 MIA** remains

HANOI (AP) — Four days after the United States lifted a 19-year economic embargo against Vietnam, Hanoi on Monday turned over what are believed to be the remains of 12 Americans lost in the Viet-

U.S officials said that the ceremony at Hanoi's Noi Bai international airport had been planned weeks before the lifting of the embargo and that the timing was a coincidence. There have been similar ceremonies about every two months in the past.

Just the same, this one took on added significance since President Bill Clinton had made the lifting of the embargo contingent on Hanoi's cooperation and progress in the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing in action (MIA).

Veteran groups and families of those missing in action had strongly opposed the end of the embargo, saying the United States would lose its leverage in forcing Vietnam to cooperate in accounting for 2,238 American MIAs.

But the United States withheld some carrots, the biggest of which is the restoration of diplomatic ties, broken when communist North Vietnam took over the U.S.-backed south in April 1975.

The U.S. also did not immediately grant Hanoi most favoured nation trade status. which would lower tariffs on Vietnamese imports.

Vietnam is now pushing for diplomatic recognition. Just after President Clinton announced the end of the economic sanctions, Deputy Foreign Minsiter Le Mai called a news conference in Hanoi and pledged that Vietnam would continue cooperating in trying to resolve the cases of those Americans still unaccounted



Planning Minister Ziyad Faris (third from right) and German Ambassador Heinrich Reiners Monday sign agreements on German aid and loans to Jordan (AFP photo)

## Germany to provide JD 33m in loans, aid

AMMAN (Petra) - Germany will provide Jordan with DM 82.6 million marks (JD 33 million) soft loans and grants to help. finance a number of development projects in the Kingdom, under the terms of two financial agreements and two memoranda signed by the two sides in Amman Monday.

Under the first agreement Germany will give Jordan DM'76.39 million (JD 30.5 millin) in soft loans to help finance a sewerage project in Irbid. The project entails laying sewer networks and installing two waste-water treatment plants to serve the southern regions of Irbid and 15 nearby villages.

Under the second agreement, Germans will give Jordan a DM 2 million (\$JD) 800,000) to help finance a water project in the Amman region and will also provide consultancy services for the project.

Two subsequent agreements were signed with the German development bank. which will handle the grant and the loan.

The first of the two memoranda provides for Germany to grant Jordan DM 2.7 million (JD 1.28 million) in technical assistance which entails training of hospital cadres for two years. This project will be carried

out in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation. The trainees will be

oriented in maintaining hospital equipment which will be provided by Germany. The second memorandum

provides for Germany to spend DM 1.8 million (JD 720,000) on an extension programme for training personnel in the field of renewable energy which is being implemented by the Royal Scientific society (RSS) in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Coop-

Under the two-year: programme, Germany will help Jordan develop the manufacture of solar heaters and will set up a laboratory and help the RSS improve solar and wind energy generation.

The agreements were signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners.

## Juppe scheduled to visit Jordan Feb. 12

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is scheduled to pay a 24-hour visit to Amman next week to complete discussions with Jordanian leaders on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations, diplomatic sources said Monday.

It will be the second visit of Mr. Juppe since November. the sources noted. During that visit, Mr. Juppe spent only a few hours in Amman and did not have enough time for a detailed exchange of views with Jordanian leaders and hence the return visit, the sources added.

"Mr. Juppe is anxious to have more detailed discussions with the Jordanian leadership on the regional peace negotiations as well as Jordanian-French relations," said one of the sources.

Mr. Juppe is scheduled to arrive on Feb. 12 afternoon and leave the following day's evening, the source said.

The French minister hopes

to be received by His Majesty King Hussein in addition to his scheduled meetings with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials, the source said.

On the table for discussions will be "economic and technical cooperation" between Jordan and France as well as the Kingdom's estimated \$900 million debt to France, the source said.

"Preparations for a meeting of the Paris Club (of creditor governments) will also be discussed," said the source, referring to the next round of Jordan's talks with the group on rescheduling part of the Kingdom's \$6.8 billion foreign debt.

France has been supportive

of Amman's endeavours to reschedule its debts and has backed the Kingdom at various international forums.

Following his Nov. 17 talks with King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Amman. Mr. Juppe said he found Jordan ready and willing to launch regional economic cooperation as part of the peace process. He said he appreciated the

Jordanian approach and pledged that his country would continue its contribution to the workings of the multilateral phase of the peace process. France-Jordanian coopera-

tion in the international scene will also be discussed during Mr. Juppe's forthcoming visit, the diplomatic source said.

"Various international issues, particularly the conflict in Bosnia, will also be discussed in detail," said the source, noting that the recent escalation of violence in former Yugoslavia needed a concerted approach.

France has been calling for expanding the mandate of the U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia to include the use of force to stop the fighting there.

Mr. Juppe will head for Israel from Jordan for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other Israeli leaders for discussions on the 28-month-old Middle East peace negotiations.

He will also meet with Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for discussions that would inciude French help to support the implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

## **Ekeus: Two more months** to destroy Iraq chemicals

KUWAIT (AP) — The leader of a UN<sub>x</sub>, mission probing Iraq's military capabilities said Monday he was satisfied with the progress made towards eliminating most of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction. But the U.N. special com-

mission's chief, Rolf Ekeus. said the inspectors needed at least two more months to totally eliminate Iraq's stock of chemical weapons and the capability to produce them.

Mr. Ekeus spoke to reporters at the end of a two-day visit to Kuwait. He came here after a trip to Iraq to install a long-term monitoring system of Iraqi weapons production

"We have a satisfactory feeling that most of Iraq's capabilities have now been identified and eliminated," said Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat.

"confident that all the longrange missiles which remained after the Gulf war have been accounted for and destroyed." The U.N. Special commission has been supervising the

He said his commission was

destruction of Iraqi stores of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as ballistic missiles under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire. A stifling trade embargo im-

posed against Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait cannot be lifted until Mr. Ekeus certifies to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq has fulfilled its ceasefire obligations.

After resisting for two years, Iraq only in November accepted U.N. Resolution 715, which commits it to the longterm weapons monitoring

## Suspects reenact bungled attempt to murder Sedki

CAIRO (AP) — Radicals managed to set off a car bomb near Prime Minister Atef Sedki only after a series of bungles and small bribes to a corrupt policeman, prosecution evidence showed Monday.

Prosecutors showed a videotaped reenactment of the crime at the military court trial of 15 suspected extremists charged with trying to 'ill Dr. Sedki last November.

Two defendants, Sayed Suleiman and Essam Mohammad Touni, were shown as they traced their misadventures with a rattletrap car and traffic police before the bomb was detonated, Mr. Sedki escaped injury in the blast, but an 11-year-old girl was killed.

The defendants, six of whom are at large and being tried in absentia, face death penalties. Security authorities have barred foreign reporters from covering the trial but allowed Egyptian journalists to supply reports. According to the tape, a

traffic policeman stopped the men as they drove into Cairo because their car was old and battered. When he asked for car papers, they offered a 100-Egyptian pound (\$30) bribe. He accepted but still demanded proof of ownership.

They agreed to find the previous owner, but by the time they returned the policeman had taken the car for a joy ride. He came back four hours later, accepted another 30 pounds (\$8) and let them go. There was no mention in the video of Sayed Ahmad Yehia, the auto broker who sold the car to Mr. Suleiman. He was to have been a witness at the trial but was killed by suspected militants Friday (see page 2).

In the reenactment, Mr. Suleiman and Mr. Touni explained how they met with colleague Ahmad Ismail Othman the morning after they finally made it into Cairo.

After making sure the car explosive was rigged, the men took up positions along Mr. Sedki's usual route from his house, aiming to trigger the bomb as his convoy passed. Mr. Othman, who is at

large, was to be the lookout man and signal Mr. Suleiman to push the button. But he was chased away by a policeman suspicious at his lurking in the When Mr. Touni arrived as

the second lookout, Dr. Sedki's convoy was already underway. He gave the signal too late, and the bomb missed its target. But the blast outside a school killed the 11-year-old Student.

The tape also showed Mr. Sulciman and Mr. Touni explaining how they got instructions from a man identified only as Ahmad in a telephone call from Yemen. Egypt has recently coordinated efforts with Yemen to detain suspected Egyptian militants hiding there.

## Pssst. EU wants employees to keep

more secrets

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BRUSSELS (AP) - Pssst MAN IS want to know a secret? The European Union (EU) is trying to keep more of them. and some Eurocrats aren't too Mar urge happy about it. The Union ad Bosh the European Community's new name — is taking its first, tentative steps toward creating a common foreign and security policy among its dozen members. And it has decided that just like any government, it doesn't want employees blabbing sensitive information. So. officials have come up with a There are plan to stamp classified documents: "Top secret," "secret," "confidential" or "restricted," g In a sidi They are also demanding security clearanced for about 370 of the 2,200 bureaucrats who work for the Council of Ministers, the most influential of the many EU institutions. The secrecy proposal was pre-pared after the group's new treaty on European Union went into effect last November. Under the treaty, the nations will forge common forcign, security and, eventually, defence policies. They also promised better coordination in fighting terrorism and illegal drug trafficking. Under current rules, the distribution of documents can be limited, although the tendency in recent years has been to get away from restrictions. Officials argue that secrecy is needed to protect sensitive information now that the union is tackling more foreign and security issues. But council employees fear this may arbitrarily and unnecessarily restrict information. Definitions for classifying documents were so vague they would "open the door to all kinds of dangerous manipulations," of information, said Gunther Lorenz, vice president of an EU employees' committee. He told a recent news conference that politicians could be protected from public criticism under the

### proposed rules. Senator goes on trial for official misconduct

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Just months after a landslide victory, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey criminal charges of misusing her former office of state treasurer and then trying to cover it up. Facing the possibility of conviction and imprisonment, Mrs. Hutchison, a rising Republican star, has denied doing anything wrong "legally. morally, or ethically." She says she is a victim of Democrats who fear and resent her success. In four indictments, prosecutors from the Travis County district attorney's office say the real victims are state taxpayers cheated by Mrs. Hutchison. Mrs. Hutchison has been charged with using tax dollars for her personal and political gain when she was treasurer, a position she held from January 1991 to June 1993. Prosecutors say she ran political operations out of the treasury, using state employees and state computers on state time. When investigators learned of it, they say, she started changing permanent computer records to hide evidence. The indictments charge her with two felony counts and one misdemandour count of official misconduct, and felony counts of tampering with a government record and lampering with physical evi-dence. Since the alleged offenses are being tried together, prosecutors say Mrs. Hutchison, if convicted on all counts, could face up to 20 years in prison. This case is not about politics," said First Assistant District Attorney Steve McCleery. This case is about ethics and honesty in government. It is not a politically motivated case. As the evidence comes out in trial. that will be apparent."

### Vienna blackmailer threatens to poison sweets

VIENNA (AFP) — An Austrian blackmailer has threatened to leave poisoned sweets in play areas of the capital. Vienna, if he does not receive a huge ransom, officials said Sunday. The blackmailer, who made his threat via the mass-circulation newspaper Kronenzeitung, was reportedly targeting a specific supermarket group. Viennese authorities announced they would be carefully monitoring the city's parks and had already warned people not to eat any sweets found there.

# Sanctions work in Iraq but only on the poor

By Mariam M. Shahin Salwa Nooreddine of the to maintain the basic infras-

BAGHDAD - Faced with an unprecedented devaluation of the Iraqi dinar, coupled with a growing inflation of even the most basic food items, the people of Baghdad have taken to the streets to sell off what remains of their worldly goods in order to make ends meet.

Washing machines, tea sets and even plasticware are peddied every Friday at Baghdad's main auction house. Once the site where valuable antiques and Persian carpets found their way into wealthy homes, the auction house has become the hub for impoverished men, women and children who come to hawk all but the clothes on their backs.

Massive crowds come to buy and sell goods every Friday, auction house official Massoud Saleem says. "Most people are selling these days and buyers are less than before but there is nevertheless

Carpenters, electricians and mechanics in particular are buyers of second-hand machines and electronic equipment as well as used furniture to serve as a source of spare parts that are no longer available in Iraq.

The plunge in the value of the Iraqi dinar, which hovers between 170 and 250 to the U.S. dollar, has soared the prices of foodstuffs and other basic life-supporting goods.

The average government employee whose pre-August 1990 earning was the equiva-lent of \$300-\$350 (\$200 iraqi dinars) now earns less than \$5 (or 600 Iraqi dinars).

While some basic foodstuff items, including sugar, rice and wheat, continue to be partially subsidised by the government, Iraqis need to shop for all their fruits, vegetables and meat in the free market.

A kilo of tomatoes which sold for 0.15 dinars before the war now costs 15 dinars. The same is true for almost all other produce. Milk products, sweets and meat are hardly seen in the average Baghdadi home.

'The middle class can hardly afford bread, rice and some vegetables," says Dr.

Jordan Times Staff Reporter Saddam City general hospit- tructure such as clean water suffering from malnourish-

International groups and U.N. agencies have said that while there is no large-scale starvation in Baghdad, a "moderate state of malnutrition" continues to plague the general population. Lack of protein, calories as well as vitamin A and D deficiency in particular were mentioned by U.N. health officials.

Public health was Irra's first visible victim of post-war poverty. Beggars are now visible everywhere on the streets of Baghdad. Porters, waiters, women and children no longer shy away from asking strangers for money or a tip.

Increasing impoverishment of much of the population and the government's inability to become a total welfare state has thus created new economic developments.

One of the most significant developments of the threeand-a-half-year-old economic embargo is the privatisation of the Iraqi economy.

The government, which provided a significant support system in terms of food distribution and subsidised bealth care is now turning to the private sector to take over much of the formerly centralised and public economic sector.

The government has put several large public companies and industries up for sale. Even some medicine import is no longer controlled by the government. Many medicines, once available for free, are now sold at exorbitant prices by private merchants.

Cough syrup is sold at 75 dinars a bottle or almost half the monthly earning of a labourer. "What the government provides us with we can give the patients for free,' says Dr. Nooreddine, "but most medicines available on the open market are unaffordable for most people."

The government's foreign assets abroad are still frozen for the most part, and since Iraq has yet to resume its export of oil, foreign assets are extremely limited, Iraqi officials say. "The little hard currency that is available to the government is being used

other necessities for daily survival," said one government bureaucrat. Schools and universities

tools such as pens and paper, U.N. personnel report. Ironically some private sector merchants are selling sophisticated computer hardware. According to one store owner, the computer software is up-to-date and brought in from Turkey

are short of basic working

through Iraqi Kurdistan. The owner, who preferred to stay anonymous, said he was "not sure" if the United Nations Sanctions Committee would allow such imports. Anyway, he says, he "does not care."

While the computer material sells for tens of thousands of dinars and thus is out of reach for most Iragis, the store owner insists that clients do exist. "Most clients are Iragis but there are also some non-Iragis who come to Baghdad who buy from us," says the merchant. Some unofficial trade goes on with Iran, Turkey and even with incognito traders from Saudi

The question of what is allowed by the U.N. Sanctions Committee is a partially confusing one. The relevant U.N. resolution clearly states that "food and medicine" are exempted from the sanctions. However, that is not always a guarantor for Iraqis wishing

to import food or medicine. One example is a 1993 exchange of dispatch between a British middleman attempting to facilitate the export of "angised tabs" — a medical item - to Iraq.

"The U.K. government informed me that their rejection of my application for an export licence is a U.K. government decision and not a U.N. Sanctions Committee decision," read a telex sent to the Iraqi company for State Drugs by the London-based Wellcome Foundation Limited.

The lack of clear political as well as economic policy by the countries still allied against Iraq is adding to the problems of Iraq.

Dr. Nooreddine reflected: "The sanctions are working, but only on the poor."